

First Published 1843

Paving
damage
peril to
walkers

By David Walker

Each year a small portion of the British Isles is covered in a layer of ash, according to a page government report. Under their feet, people nationally are in peril.

Each year the local authorities responsible for the paving of the streets in the United Kingdom spend £50m on the job. The report says that the cost of maintaining roads is £1.2bn a year. It also says that the cost of maintaining roads is £1.2bn a year.

At any given time there are 130,000 miles of roads in England and Wales. The report says that the cost of maintaining roads is £1.2bn a year. It also says that the cost of maintaining roads is £1.2bn a year.

The Standing Committee on Roadways, which is made up of representatives of the local authorities, has published a report on the state of the roads in the country. The report says that the cost of maintaining roads is £1.2bn a year. It also says that the cost of maintaining roads is £1.2bn a year.

Spain seals border after violence

Spanish troops began sealing part of the border with France against illegal crossings. The action was one of the special anti-terror measures agreed in Madrid after a weekend of Basque violence. The interior ministry has offered a £54,000 reward for information about ETA activists involved in attacks which included the destruction of Spain's most important automatic telephone exchange.

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Civil Service pay rebuff

The Government brushed aside the Civil Service unions' 13 per cent pay claim in the most uncompromising defence it has yet made of the use of market forces in determining pay in the public sector.

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Prior goes ahead with Bill

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, faces opposition from Unionist MPs when he unveils legislation this week for an elected assembly in Ulster. He wants a full debate first on his devolution White Paper.

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Poland vets journalists

Polish journalists are subjected to "verification" tribunals at their newspaper offices in an attempt by the authorities to weed out the ideological unreliable. According to Solidarity, 1,200 journalists have so far lost their jobs.

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Unions urged to boycott talks

Scottish trade unionists are being urged to boycott bodies involving the Government and employers, as part of their campaign against the Employment Bill. The move is likely to embarrass the TUC nationally, which has so far decided against using this tactic.

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Rent freeze hint

A year-long rent freeze for council and private tenants if the Labour Party wins the next general election is hinted at in a carefully worded pledge launching the party's campaign for the local elections.

Page 2

£95,500 salary

Mr Michael Edwards, BL chairman who is to leave the company at the end of the year, was paid a salary of £95,500 in 1981, the car company's annual accounts showed yesterday.

Page 17

£250m contract

GEC has won a contract worth more than £250m to supply turbine generators for a new power station in South Africa. At least 80 per cent of the work is expected to be done in Britain.

Page 17

Ministers quit

The Australian ministers for health and customs have resigned over the minister for health's failure to declare a miniature television radio-cassette to customs officials in Sydney.

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Principal choice

Dr William Taylor, director of the London University Institute of Education for the past nine years, is the unexpected choice for the post of principal of London University.

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Burnet appeal

Ronald Burnet, the former Yorkshire County Cricket Club captain, who has been called in to restore team unity, is to appeal to all players to work for the club's success.

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Letters: On the Falklands, from Mr D Hall and others; from Mr A M G Christopher and Mr C Irving; orchestral visit, from Mr John McCabe, and Miss S M Alcock.

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THE TIMES

No 61,212

TUESDAY APRIL 20 1982

Price twenty pence

'We are closer to peace than war' says junta chief

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 19

Argentina today presented significant counter-proposals to Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, which, American sources said, could form the basis of an agreement to avoid war over the Falkland Islands.

There was strong speculation that the military junta was ready to agree to a joint administration with Britain while the central question of sovereignty over the islands was discussed in the framework of the United Nations.

Mr Haig was today preparing to leave Buenos Aires, but there was no indication whether he would fly to London or Washington. He has been in touch with President Reagan daily since arriving from Washington.

Lieutenant General Basilio Lami Dozo, Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force and a member of the three-man military junta, said that Argentina would shortly release full details of how far it was willing to go in order to avoid hostilities and added: "I think we are closer to peace than war".

Mr Haig returned to his hotel at night after 12 hours of talks at the Foreign Ministry and the Presidential Palace. At that time the American side was gloomy about the prospects, but Mr Haig apparently received a telephone call at about 2.30 am which changed the atmosphere. He returned directly to the Presidential Palace later this morning and later went to the American Embassy.

If indeed the Argentines are prepared to take the sovereignty question to the United Nations, the prospects of an interim settlement would clearly be good. American sources said that if the sovereignty issue was postponed the United States would attempt to persuade Argentina and Britain to

Hopeful Haig flies home

Buenos Aires, April 19. — Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said he was returning to Washington to report to President Reagan on the Falklands crisis and was still hopeful that the dispute could be resolved peacefully.

He told reporters that this part of his work was now finished and the results would be passed on to the British Government. He urged a diplomatic settlement on both parties and said that a war in the South Atlantic would be the greatest tragedy.

Despite the new air of optimism, military preparations for war continued today. The Navy said in a communiqué that its ships were "on schedule" but did not say where they were, although it seems that some vessels are back at the main naval port of Puerto Belgrano.

After a weekend of conflicting reports about the progress of Mr Haig's talks in Buenos Aires, there was cautious optimism in Washington today that a compromise on the key question of sovereignty may have been found (Nicholas Ashford writes from Washington).

Sources here said that an acceptance of such a compromise by Argentina which had hitherto refused to consider anything less than absolute sovereignty.

The sources added that a climb-down would reflect the "junta's" concern that the United States would side with Britain in the event of hostilities breaking out between the two countries.

continue to fly over the Falklands, albeit alongside the British fleet.

However, the junta has said adamantly that the sovereignty question was not negotiable. But there is little doubt that Mr Haig told the Argentines that the United States would not permit any circumstance to permit a military defeat for the British.

The junta's softening attitude also reflects deep concern that Argentina's weak economy would be destroyed by a long-term ban on trade with the EEC and other important Western customers. The fear of being pushed into the Soviet Union camp is also felt strongly among the right-wing generals and admirals.

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Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, display pieces of coal and rock presented by miners, as the party convention opens in Munich. Report page 7.

War would rule out Papal visit, Hume says

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Pope will not visit Britain if the country is at war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands next month, Cardinal Hume indicated yesterday. He said he was giving his own opinion and had not been in touch with the Vatican on this point, but he did not doubt that war and a papal visit were incompatible.

The cardinal was speaking at a press conference to announce details of the papal mass at Westminster Cathedral on May 28. Asked what in his view constituted a war rather than a skirmish, he replied: "I am terribly unclued up on what constitutes a war". It was not a subject on which bishops were experts.

"Personally I think it would be very difficult indeed for a Pope to come to a country which was actually at war. This would put him in an impossible position", he said.

The cardinal refused to be drawn further into the ecclesiastical implications of the Falkland Islands dispute, and when asked if Roman Catholic chaplains with the British fleet were in touch with the Vatican he dismissed the suggestion as improper, and contrary to service regulations. He replied: "Pass".

He said several times that the Pope's visit was pastoral and primarily concerned the Roman Catholic community. "Whatever other people think or say, in the mind of the Roman Catholic community this is a pastoral visit. It is not a state visit. It is not practicable for Pope John Paul to arrive at Heathrow and proceed by the Underground, and it was appropriate that he should be welcomed by a formal ceremony."

His primary hope for the visit was that Roman Catholics would be inspired to pray more frequently, and to serve their fellow men "more generously and more fervently."

"Unless we go on saying this clearly, people are going to misunderstand the nature of this visit. No amount of saying this is a state visit will turn it into a state visit."

Referring to last week's fuss over the timetable for the Pope's visit to Canterbury, Cardinal Hume said he thought Archbishop Paul Marinkus, the Vatican security adviser, had been "a bit over the top". He had arrived in Britain with an inadequate brief.

He repeated his assurance that the Pope regarded the meeting with church leaders at Canterbury as most important. Apart from lunch, the Pope would have 45 or 50 minutes with the church leaders, although it was not realistic to expect them to embark on complicated theological discussions.

He said he thought protests about the papal visit had come from an "articulate minority" and were not representative of national feeling as a whole.

The song chosen as the official theme tune for the papal visit, "Welcome John Paul" was released yesterday (the Press Association reports).

It is sung by the choir of St Winifred's Roman Catholic School in Stockport, Greater Manchester, which had a hit with "Grandma", and if the new single sells a million, the tour funds could benefit by more than £40,000, because the school has decided to give up all the royalties.

The ballad was composed by Liam Hurley and Val Kearney.

Israeli Army delays Yamit evacuation

From Christopher Walker on the Sinai border, April 19

As Jews throughout Israel tonight began their annual remembrance for the six million killed in the Nazi holocaust, it was learnt that the Army has postponed evacuating the estimated 2,000 militants still remaining in the town of Yamit until the official Day of Remembrance is over. Army sources expressed confidence that the operation could then be completed in 72 hours.

Many soldiers in the force of 20,000 men and women expressed trepidation at the sensitivity of the task facing them. Soon after convoys of lorries, jeeps and empty coaches had rumbled through the desert mist toward the militants' stronghold, a young captain named Avi explained the orders which had been given to troops at a number of special briefings.

"The soldiers have been instructed that the people they are dealing with are not enemies, they are good and loyal citizens," he told *The Times* at the forward military headquarters here. "It is not a war. The idea is that everything will be done to see that people do not get hurt."

A bespectacled soldier manning a roadblock on a road through the main urban settlement of Yamit, where the bulk of the diehards were installed, was less politic. Sharing a cardboard cup of over-sweet tea, he remarked quietly: "We have to face the prospect that some of those people are crazy. No one yet knows how it will turn out."

Fears that "Operation Red Dove" will end with Jew fighting Jew on soil conquered from Egypt only 15 years ago has led the Government to take extraordinary steps to try to reduce on-the-spot reporting of events. The restrictions led to legal

US embassy documents published in Tehran

From Robert Fisk Tehran

Behind the walls of the American Embassy in Tehran — covered now in painted murals of the Gulf War and martyrs' deaths — a group of young Iranians are providing the final, concrete evidence of one of the most embarrassing and potentially damaging lapses in United States Government security since the Second World War.

In a rectangular office block beside the compound's overgrown lawns, the ideological descendants of the students who took over the embassy in November, 1979, have succeeded in piecing together almost the entire secret diplomatic archives of the mission — thousands of confidential United States Government documents, many of them carrying the highest security classification and containing details of Central Intelligence Agency interest in Iran, Israeli intelligence operations in the Middle East and hundreds of ambassadorial and consular reports written in the last days of the Shah's reign.

It is understood that the Soviet Embassy in Tehran has received copies of the documents before the Iranians publish them.

Many of the official papers were found untouched in the embassy archives; the remainder, totalling several thousand individual pages — were shredded by American security guards when the embassy was invaded, but have been painstakingly pasted together over the past two years.

Among the most embarrassing papers found in the embassy was a 47-page secret CIA summary of the Israeli intelligence services, Shin Beth and Mossad, including a

Benn told to take a break

By Our Political Staff

Mr Wedgwood Benn disclosed last night that his doctor had asked him to say away from the Commons for two or three days' rest. He added: "Last week, I had very bad flu and a high fever and I drove down from Essex to the House for the Wednesday debate. I then developed a bad cough."

Mr Benn's doctor said that he should have a check X-ray, which was taken at Charing Cross Hospital, in London, yesterday. That showed that there was no problem, but the MP was advised to take some rest.

"I am now at home, fully-dressed, catching up on correspondence and other work."

He also said that the burden of his recent correspondence, across the political spectrum, supported his view that the fleet should not have been sent on its current course for the Falkland Islands.

"The only point of sending the fleet is to use it. I hope to God it doesn't come to that", he added.

The illness which afflicted Mr Benn last summer was Guillain-Barré syndrome, an acute polynuropathy inflammation of the nerves, affecting his legs. It causes muscular weakness and, in severe cases, widespread paralysis, but most patients return to normal health (a *Staff Reporter* writes).

Mr Benn spent more than 10 days in Charing Cross Hospital last June and then a further month away from work recovering from the illness.

Every day of the week, all over the world, the Red Cross is giving voluntary help to others — the sick, the handicapped and the frail elderly.

But whether our work is here in Britain or overseas, your care and generosity are urgently required to provide training for volunteers and facilities for those in need. A first-aid post, an ambulance, medical supplies — all are vital. All cost money. All need your help. Show your care by making a bequest or donation to the Red Cross. We'll be pleased to tell you more about the work your generosity will make possible.

We'll also explain how donations become worth even more (at no extra cost to you) if made under covenant.

Please send the coupon for details and let the Red Cross put your care into action.

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To D. J. Piggott, Director General.

Please send me details of the Society's work, with information on the tax advantages to U.K. residents of a bequest or covenant donation to charity.

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Labour poll pledge hints at year's rent freeze

By Richard Evans

The Labour Party launched its campaign for next month's local government elections with a carefully worded pledge hinting at a year-long rent freeze for council and private tenants if the party wins the next general election.

In a statement read out on behalf of Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader said that an incoming Labour government would "immediately make it clear to local authorities that it does not expect any increase in council rents in the first year and that for housing subsidy and rate support grant purposes it will be assumed that no such increase will be made".

Mr Frank Allau, the party's housing committee chairman, expanded on Mr Foot's statement and said it meant that the next Labour government would announce a one year freeze on the rents of council and private landlord tenants. Mr Allau said the new policy would affect nine million families and would cost £300m, given the present rate of inflation.

But Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment in the

Commons, was more cautious and said that any freeze would have to be set within the context of the party's financial policy for its housing programme.

Mr Kaufman has been fighting behind the scenes to prevent a rent freeze pledge being given, so that there is more cash for a future Labour government's housing construction programme.

Despite his opposition, Labour's national executive committee is almost certain to back a recommendation from its home policy committee which says a future Labour government should immediately tell local authorities it did not expect any increases in rent for the first year.

Mr Allau said that legislation would be required to enforce the rent freeze on private landlords. Any local authority which decided to increase rents would find itself in "financial difficulties".

In his local election campaign message, Mr Foot said the Conservatives wanted to turn local councils into compliant and subservient creatures "on the basis that

central government knows what is best for each area and how much should be spent by every council".

He added: "The only way to resist is to oust Tory councillors in their hundreds and replace them with Labour councillors committed to local involvement and local decision-making as the best way of providing valued public services".

Mr Kaufman said the local elections were about defending ratepayers, local council services and jobs. He accused Conservative councils of actively collaborating in reducing and damaging services.

"The Liberal and Social Democrat candidates offer a different policy for every street in every ward and when they come together in a town hall, if they do, they will be unable to administer a local authority coherently", he said.

Mr Walter Brown, Labour's assistant national agent, said yesterday that the party was contesting more seats than any other party in the country (the Press Association reports).

In England, Labour was putting up 4,581 candidates for 4,789 seats.

Boycott of three-way talks urged by unions

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Perth

The threat of a TUC boycott of bodies that bring together unions, employers and the Government resurfaced yesterday, as Scottish trade unions drew up plans for opposing Mr Norman Tebbit's labour law reforms.

A motion bringing together the policies of left-wing and moderate unions retains the Scottish miners' proposal that the labour movement "should and collaboration on tripartite bodies where government policy is promoted".

This hardline attitude, which is expected to be approved by the TUC conference in two days' time, is likely to embarrass the TUC nationally.

The TUC General Council has, with some reluctance, shelved the threat of pulling out of tripartite bodies such as the National Economic Development Council and the Manpower Services Commission. Mention of that tactic was deliberately omitted from the strategy of opposition to the Employment Bill adopted at the special Wembley conference two weeks ago.

It is clearly now back on the agenda, and as the STUC tends to set a militant pace for other trade union gatherings, it is evident that an even tougher boycott of the law and the Government will emerge from the September TUC Congress in Brighton.

The composite motion proposed by Mr Clive Jenkins's Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, pledges vigorously to oppose any new legislation in the trade union field and calls on all unions to maintain their policy of non-cooperation with existing laws.

It also urges that financial, industrial and "any other appropriate support" should be given to unions that become victims of Mr Tebbit's new legislation.

It concludes that "only militant resistance to the application of and-trade union law including the use of industrial action will succeed and calls on the general council to mobilise with rallies, demonstrations and coordinated industrial action on local and national levels".

This message was re-issued last night at an STUC "fringe" meeting, when Mr Michael Costello, industrial organiser of the Communist Party, said: "Anti-union legislation and incomes policies, whether called the social contract or by any other name, are two sides of the same coin."

"We must now go all out to bust the Tories' wages curbs and make clear that restrictions on collective bargaining cannot be negotiated with the Labour Party either."

Mr Costello has specifically excluded wage restraint in a document on economic recovery which will be discussed at its annual conference later this month. (The Times writes).

The recommendation is justified by the statement that incomes planning could only form an element of a totally planned socialist economic system.

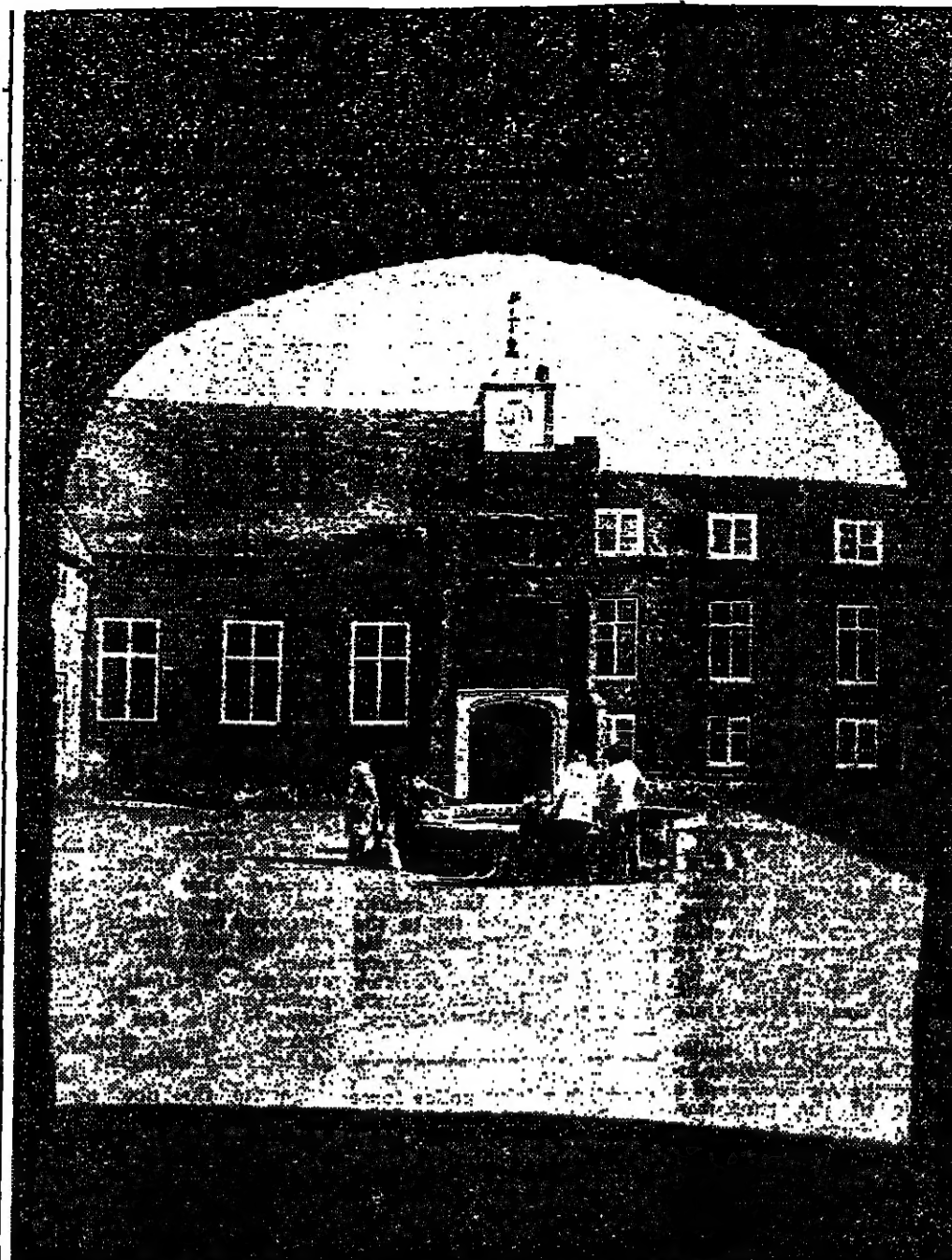
But, the document claims, legislation is needed to impose a national minimum wage set at two-thirds of the national average wage.

At a Labour Party regional election press conference, he said that a parent chosen for a school council would be included by next year in any selection panel of eight councillors and head teachers. The parents would help to pick candidates for such posts as head teacher, deputy head and assistant head teacher.

Councillor Harley claimed that, although the Government had indicated that Strathclyde should make a £21m cut in education, the region had restricted the reduction to £12.5m.

Mr Dufty disclosed that, as a direct result of "loss of membership, loss of income from the business of strike pay", the executive could not replace a retiring full-time official, a district secretary, in Hampshire.

The decision was a "clear indication of the union's financial problems", he added. In 1981 the union had paid out £1,741,382 in superannuation benefit, almost £1m in



Palace takeover planned at Putney

A courtyard at Fulham Palace, in west London, which residents near by are hoping to protect from being converted to offices or flats.

The residents, who announced their plans yesterday, believe that with the help of initial grants they could make the palace pay its way as a centre for exhibitions and concerts and by providing meeting rooms for community groups (our Environment Correspondent writes).

The palace and grounds by the Thames at Putney Bridge constitute one of the most important historic sites in the west of London. There is evidence of occupation from prehistoric and Roman times, and the site was bought by

the Bishopric of London more than 1,200 years ago. The palace was used as the residence of Bishops of London until 1973.

Mr Patrick Ground, QC, chairman of the Fulham Society and of the committee which is setting up the trust, said yesterday: "It is much the most important historic building in the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The advantage of our scheme is that it is the only one that ensures a large degree of public use. We believe that it can generate enough income to sustain itself."

The parts of the building which date from Tudor times have been given the highest grade of official historic building listing. An Ancient

Monuments Order has been laid to protect the remains of the nearby moat, which may date back to the Roman occupation.

Mr Ground's committee has the initial subsidy required to enable the proposed trust to run the property as a going concern with meeting rooms and catering facilities to offer at commercial rates. The plan includes acquiring from the Church Commissioners the "palace" and then accepting surrender of the church's lease held from the church.

Mr Ground would not disclose the likely cost of purchase, but said that the commissioners' income from the lease was small.

Ipswich: Alliance thirsts for Labour's political oasis

By Richard Evans

Ipswich is a political oasis for the Labour Party in a county traditionally dominated by Conservatism.

The town's borough council has been controlled by the Labour Party with a healthy majority since 1979, while neighbouring district authorities in Suffolk remain firmly in the grip of rural Tories. Since October 1974 Ipswich has returned to the habit of electing the county's only Labour MP.

The town's voters continue their custom of being the odd ones out by taking part in the local government elections on May 6 while the rest of Suffolk's electors stay at home. A third of the council's 48 seats are being contested by 51 candidates. Labour, with a two-to-one majority on the council, is defending 10 seats while the Conservatives have six councillors seeking re-election.

Local government in the town is an exclusive preserve for the two main political parties, with no Liberal councillors and no defections to the Social Democratic Party. With Labour certain to retain control of the council, the spotlight is likely to focus on the performance of the Alliance, which is fielding candidates in all 16 wards.

Little has been seen or heard of the SDP in Ipswich since it was established there last June, while the local Liberal organization is in the process of being rejuvenated after a spell on the doldrums.

The Ipswich elections will show what impact, if any, the Alliance has on an area not renowned for political extremes and where the style of Labour leadership is acknowledged by political opponents to be moderate.

The outcome is difficult to predict. The Alliance is the big unknown — even to itself. There is also a streak of perverseness among Ipswich voters which saw them go against the national swing towards Thatcherism in May 1979 and double the parliamentary majority of their Labour MP, Ken Westch, to nearly 4,000.

Labour, led on the council

by Mr Jamie Cann, a school teacher, aged 35, appears genuinely confident of doing well. It is campaigning on its record in power with the slogan "Let's be proud of our town. Labour is improving Ipswich."

It boasts a record of no cuts in services, rate rises below the level of inflation and claims to have improved Ipswich "by prudent management".

Mr Cann, who prefers his party's style to be described as progressive rather than moderate, points in particular to his authority's housing record, what he calls "greening" of derelict sites, the improved bus services and the provision of sports facilities including an athletics track of international standard and two sports halls. "We take pride in that," he says.

Like her SDP partners, Ms Miernick is confident of Alliance candidates making a breakthrough and will be bitterly disappointed if they do not. "Personally, I would sob," she says.

Ipswich has not been a happy hunting ground for Conservatives in recent years. Mr John Shorten, leader of the Conservative group on the council for the past year, says he will be very happy if his party retains the seats it holds.

Conservative tactics are encapsulated in his view of Labour's record which he describes as "spend, spend, spend". He is critical of the subsidy for the town's bus service, which he says is £125m, and the cash spent on improving derelict sites.

But the main weapon used against Labour will be its decision to start building two swimming pools in Crown Street which he says will cost £16m over 21 years. In 1979 the town's citizens rejected in a referendum a plan for a sports complex on the site.

"We are committed to keeping the rates down so there will be no increased burden on householders, industry or commerce, and no loss of jobs. We know it is possible, we have done it before," Mr Shorten says.

Mr Shorten believes the Alliance poses little threat to Conservative support. "Unless I misjudge the climate the Alliance will have no effect at all, because they have no experience in local government."

Tomorrow: Lothian.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

In a clear reference to the Alliance, he adds: "People talk about community politics. The Ipswich Labour Party has been dealing in community politics for the last 10 years and people don't forget things like that."

The SDP and the Liberals have produced a joint manifesto which concentrates more on promoting the Alliance as a political alternative, rather than on local issues. But they favour decentralization, greater consultation and more accessibility to council affairs, especially where housing and planning are involved.

Mr Keith Petrican, one of the SDP's most prominent candidates, agrees that his party has been quiet locally but says that is because its energies have been concentrated on setting up an organization "and that will show now".

"On the evening returns so far I will be disappointed if the SDP does not get half of its eight candidates elected. We are looking to get a sufficient number of people on the council to form a base

LOCAL ELECTIONS

on which we can build. We could be in for a great shock on May 6 for better or worse," Mr Petrican says.

Mrs Pat Miernick, Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate for Ipswich, is organizing the party's campaign and has been mainly responsible for arranging a potential Liberal revival.

"We are not prepared to base our campaign on attacking other parties. We think their records are enough to persuade quite a number of people in Ipswich to vote for the Alliance," she says.

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Workers strike in dustbin dispute

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Council workers in Wandsworth, south-west London, staged a one-day strike yesterday to try to force the Conservative administration to abandon its plans to use private contractors to collect household refuse.

Manual workers in the refuse collections department remain on indefinite strike against the council's refusal to withdraw a notice inviting tenders for dustbin emptying and members of the National and Local Government Officers Association who work telephone switchboards have also been asked to stay out indefinitely.

Mr David Simmonds, for the joint committee of municipal unions coordinating the action, said that if the council employed private firms temporarily to empty bins and answer telephones, more staff might be asked to strike.

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Braden house raider jailed

Bernard Braden, the television personality, was

clubbed unconscious and he and his wife Barbara Kelly were left tied up when masked raiders broke into their home, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

John Kelly, aged 23, of Adelaide Road, Camden, north London, was jailed for four years after admitting taking part in the Hampstead robbery in June 1978.

The three raiders escaped in the couple's car after taking cash and jewelry worth £10,000.

Three boys who died in an unexplained shooting incident were buried yesterday after a joint requiem mass at St Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Mark Otter and his identical twin Michael and his friend James McElroy died on Easter Sunday on a hillside in Snowdonia where they regularly stayed in holiday caravans.

It said that economic problems undoubtedly played a part in the 1981 urban disorders. "They were at least in part an expression of a deep-rooted inner city problem which has not been solved in spite of the efforts of government and local authorities in the 1970s."

The West Midlands, once the workshop of the world was facing its worst economic crisis. About 225,000 people, 16 per cent of the county's workforce, were without a job.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Parents to help pick senior staff

Parents will soon help to select teachers chosen for senior posts at Stratclyde schools, Councillor William Harley, chairman of the region's education committee, said in Glasgow yesterday.

At a Labour Party regional election press conference, he said that a parent chosen for a school council would be included by next year in any selection panel of eight councillors and head teachers. The parents would help to pick candidates for such posts as head teacher, deputy head and assistant head teacher.

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The decision was a "clear indication of the union's financial problems", he added. In 1981 the union had paid out £1,741,382 in superannuation benefit, almost £1m in

Civil disorder warning in West Midlands

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

West Midlands County Council said yesterday in its annual review on its structure plan that unless progress was made on urban regeneration "there is a real danger that civil disorder may recur, perhaps on an even grander scale".

It said that economic problems undoubtedly played a part in the 1981 urban disorders. "They were at least in part an expression of a deep-rooted inner city problem which has not been solved in spite of the efforts of government and local authorities in the 1970s."

The West Midlands, once the workshop of the world was facing its worst economic crisis. About 225,000 people, 16 per cent of the county's workforce, were without a job.

Shot boys are buried together

Three boys who died in an unexplained shooting incident were buried yesterday after a joint requiem mass at St Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Mark Otter and his identical twin Michael and his friend James McElroy died on Easter Sunday on a hillside in Snowdonia where they regularly stayed in holiday caravans.

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The West Midlands, once the workshop of the world was facing its worst economic crisis. About 225,000 people, 16 per cent of the county's workforce, were without a job.

AUEW strike pay bill £5.5m in three years

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Government policy is putting severe financial pressure on trade unions Mr Terence Dufty, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday. He told the union's national committee in Eastbourne that the Government had embarked on a policy of sapping the financial numerical strength of the trade union movement.

"Unfortunately they are succeeding," he added. The AUEW, which had sometimes been "described as a non-militant union," had in the last three years paid out more than £5.5m in dispute benefit.

It has in common with other unions, had its membership reduced as a result of unemployment. Membership is threatening to fall below one million for the first time in the last three years. It fell from 1,166,512 at the end of 1980 to 1,024,317 at the end of 1981.

The combined general and superannuation funds held by the AUEW, Britain's second biggest union, also fell. During 1981 from £19,614,401 to £18,936,613.

Mr Dufty disclosed that, as a direct result of "loss of membership, loss of income from the business of strike pay", the executive could not replace a retiring full-time official, a district secretary, in Hampshire.

The decision was a "clear indication of the union's financial problems", he added. In 1981 the union had paid out £1,741,382 in superannuation benefit, almost £1m in

dispute benefit and its legal fees £1.3m. He pointed by reports that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, was under pressure from backbench Conservative MPs to bring in legislation to ensure that trade unionists have to "contract in" to paying the political levy. Mr Dufty said the Conservatives were now making "another attempt to reduce our financial strength."

It was "rubbish" for Conservatives to claim that the present system, under which members of most unions have to "contract out" if they want to stop paying a political levy, is inferior.

Mr Dufty also gave a warning while Labour has never had a better opportunity than at the present election to win an election on the Conservatives' disastrous and mainly economic policies, "sally they are fighting far better against one another than against the Tories."

Labour should be preparing for the next general election, but it "will lose support nationwide if we give the next Labour Government insupportable targets. Labour should seek either with medicine or if necessary 'argery' to make itself 'fit for the fight'."

Labour needed more MPs who had worked their way up from the shop floor. "We have far too many being selected from a middle class academic background," he said.

The decision was a "clear indication of the union's financial problems", he added. In 1981 the union had paid out £1,741,382 in superannuation benefit, almost £1m in

dispute benefit and its legal fees £1.3m. He pointed by reports that Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, was under pressure from backbench Conservative MPs to bring in legislation to ensure that trade unionists have to "contract in" to paying the political levy. Mr Dufty said the Conservatives were now making "another attempt to reduce our financial strength."

Science report

All is not well for Einstein's theory

By the Staff of "Nature"

An apparent breakthrough in measurements of the Sun has indicated that all may not be well with Einstein's general theory of relativity — Einstein's geometrical theory of gravity.

General relativity has been checked in a number of ways, and it is clearly nearly right — more accurate, for example, than Sir Isaac Newton's theory, which is superseded by the new measurements of the Sun indicate that the theory may still not be perfect.

Great attention, therefore, is being paid to the measurements, which were announced by Professor Henry Hill, of Tucson, Arizona, at a conference of the Royal Astronomical Society in Dublin.

Professor Hill has spent nearly two decades perfecting equipment to measure very precisely the diameter of the Sun, not as it appears in a matter as it sounds. In particular, if the Sun is not a perfect sphere, Einstein's prediction of the exact orbit of the planet Mercury (the nearest planet to the Sun) would be affected.

Since the Sun spins, it might be expected to be slightly flatter at the equator than at the poles, as centrifugal force flings out its equatorial mass. However, calculations show that if the Sun were spinning as a whole only as fast as it appears to spin on the surface (about once every 25 days) the distortion would not be enough to upset Einstein.

Nevertheless, the core of the Sun might be spinning faster than the exterior, which is slowed down by the solar wind and the magnetic fields which link the Sun to interstellar space. Professor Hill's measurements show that this is the case, with the core spinning about four times as fast as the exterior.

And the calculated distortion of the Sun puts Mercury's orbit out of reach of Einstein. Professor Hill now believes that there is a "finite chance" that Einstein is wrong although he puts more weight on the possibility that the error lies in the measurements of Mercury's orbit, or that of the other planets which affect Mercury.

Making this statement, however, has cost Professor Hill a collaboration with Mr Douglas Gough, an astrophysicist at Cambridge University. The two were to produce a paper together, but Gough believes Hill is underestimating the uncertainties of his calculations of the internal solar rotation from the data, however good the data may be in itself.

Mr Gough has described certain aspects of Hill's calculations as "arbitrary". Professor Hill, however, counters that Gough's objections are "formal" and pedantic.

Whatever the conclusions on this front, the new measurements are also exciting for quite a different reason. In fact they depend not on a measurement of the solar diameter itself, but on variations — oscillations — in that diameter.

These oscillations are believed to indicate whole-body vibrations of the Sun and they can tell astrophysicists something about the solar interior. Professor Hill claims to have measured these oscillations with unprecedented precision by a new technique, producing a "spectrum" of oscillations 100 times more detailed than before.

The conclusions about the internal rotation of the Sun, and the consequences for Einstein's theory, are only the first part of a story which should now begin to unfold.

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Prior's assembly laws to be unveiled this week

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Legislation setting up Mr James Prior's elected assembly for Northern Ireland will be unveiled later this week amid indications of a distinct cooling in Anglo-Irish relations.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will publish a short Bill which will amend certain sections of the 1973 Constitution Act despite official unionist demands that the Commons debate the White Paper outlining his development plans first.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, said his party would try to change the plan by tabling amendments when the Bill comes before the Commons.

He also indicated that leading MPs in the party, including himself and Mr Enoch Powell, MP for South Down, would consider contesting assembly elections if invited to stand by their local constituency associations.

Polling for the 78-seat assembly will be by proportional representation and is expected to take place in the first two weeks of October.

Politicians in Ulster wait to see whether the mainly Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party is going to contest the elections or go to the polls but boycott the assembly.

Mr Prior has made it clear that whatever their eventual decision he will go ahead with his plan.

"Naturally, I hope they are going to take part and I hope they have now had a chance to examine the White Paper," he said. "I am sure that the proposals are not unworkable. In fact, quite the reverse."

"I have to say that whatever happens, even if they decide to stay out, they will be the losers. I very much hope they do not, as it is unlikely in these circumstances that the assembly would move much further than the initial phase. But whatever happens, we will carry on," he declared.

Mr Prior's determination to press ahead if a source of

anger in the republic whose government has branded his scheme as unworkable. It is being argued that his insistence on going ahead contradicts the White Paper, which says that no system of government is to be imposed on either side of the community will work effectively.

In Dublin, Mr Prior is being viewed as a man in a hurry whose initiative is being undermined by his own political ambitions. There is further annoyance that there was little real consultation on the plan.

It was expected that the Anglo-Irish process, initiated by Mr Prior and Mr Haughey in 1980, would have meant more detailed discussions and there is disappointment at what is seen as the "flattering" and "fairly empty" nature of the process at the moment. The 11 paragraphs in his White Paper concerning the two identities within Northern Ireland, are being dismissed as little more than worthy verbal statements.

Although personal relations between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Haughey, the new Taoiseach, are said to be cordial, Mr Prior's determination to go on with the British Government's plan is understood to have put something of a cloud over relations between the two countries. Plans are going ahead for the next summit between the two prime ministers which the Irish Government would like to be held in July.

Mr Haughey's return to office was greeted with equanimity by the British who had worked well with him in the past and achieved a breakthrough in relations between the two countries in 1980.

Part of the reason for the different emphasis put on the Anglo-Irish process by the different governments, Dublin tends to view it as a precursor to unity or a definite move in that direction while the British accept that nothing substantial is about to change and that it

will deal mainly with matters outside serious contention.

However, it is clear that Mr Haughey is determined that the momentum by which he set great store when he was last prime minister will gather pace and he would like the parliamentary tier of the Anglo-Irish council to be set up sooner rather than later with clear functions on certain matters.

Two Irish Naval vessels and four aircraft scoured the Irish Sea today for signs of a submarine believed to have sunk a 70-foot fishing boat (the Press Association reports).

The five man crew of the 2200-ton trawler *Sharelga* from Clogherhead, Lough, were picked up unhurt by sister ships after the *Sharelga* was hauled backwards at high speed for more than two miles before she capsized and sank.

The Ministry of Defence is investigating the incident. Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent writes. A spokesman said that they had had no reports which would indicate that a Royal Navy boat was involved.

If indeed a submarine were involved, a British or an American boat would be the most likely culprit because of the relative proximity of their bases off the Clyde, in the Gareloch and Holy Loch.

Soviet submarines are also present from time to time attracted by the British and American bases, and the RAF and Royal Navy were tracking one in the Clyde approaches several weeks ago. That boat has now left the area.

Four men, arrested in the Irish Republic at the weekend after a terrorist murder near Ulster's border, appeared in a Dublin court yesterday. All four were charged at the city's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court, with possessing and having control of explosives and will appear again on May 10.



The Rev Christopher Hamel Cooke in the crypt of St Marylebone Parish Church.

Crypt may be medical centre

By Hugh Clayton Environment Correspondent

The dead are to be removed from a London crypt to make room for medical treatment of the living. Permission has been given for the transfer of 500 bodies from the crypt of St Marylebone parish church to a cemetery outside London. The last burial in the crypt was in the 1850s.

The Rev Christopher Hamel Cooke, the rector, said yesterday before launching a £1m restoration appeal that he hoped to use part of the crypt for a doctor's flat and surgery. The parish includes Harley Street.

The rector said that he wanted to start a unique partnership between medicine and the church in which patients would be able to receive physical treatment and spiritual comfort in the same building. "It is not our claim to be able to succeed where scientific medicine fails. The church ministers to the sick in partnership with the medical profession," he said.

Mr Hamel Cooke said that he knew of a doctor who was a lay reader and was eager to open the crypt surgery. "He will not ram religion down their throats," the rector said. The restoration plan for the early nineteenth century church includes purchase of a new organ for £100,000.

The church has a famous choir and is often used by the neighbouring Royal Academy of Music. The present decrepit organ was damaged by flooding 17 years ago and was originally built from two large organs.

Architects have advised the rector that some pieces of carved masonry have been so eroded that they constitute an increasing hazard to passers-by from falling fragments. Scaffolding was erected by the church yesterday for cleaning and replacement of the stone facings.

Britain to stage arts festival in New York

By Christopher Warman

The largest British arts festival to be held outside the United Kingdom is to take place in New York next spring and summer to celebrate the bicentenary of the signing of the peace treaty which ended the Revolutionary War of 1776-1783.

The huge project, "Britain Salutes New York," was announced simultaneously in New York and London yesterday. It will range from dance, theatre and visual arts to crafts and film at more than 50 venues in New York, and will be the city's first international arts festival.

The festival has been conceived and funded by British and American companies on both sides of the Atlantic, and \$2.5m (£1.2m) has been raised to finance it.

Among the exhibitions will be the Hans Holbein collection from Windsor Castle which the Queen has consented to lend abroad for the first time.

Paintings by John Constable and a definitive Henry Moore retrospective will be on show at the Metropolitan Museum, and the Royal Academy is sending an exhibition to the National Academy of Design.

The performing arts programme includes the Royal Ballet at the Metropolitan Opera House, and the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields at the Lincoln Center, and the Fires of London, Monteverdi Choir, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Contemporary Dance Company have been invited to participate.

Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy, who with Sir Claus Moser, chairman of the Royal Opera House, heads the British advisory committee for the festival, said yesterday: "On April 13, when the festival opens, New York will be treated to the most ambitious celebration of British arts, culture and life ever held outside the United Kingdom."

PC bitten as woman's furniture is seized

A woman was carried screaming from her home while a bailiff removed her furniture for a debt she did not owe, Inner London Crown Court was told yesterday.

Miss Angela Rhoden became violent as she tried to explain to the sheriff's officer and a policeman that the debt had nothing to do with her and bit a constable as she was dragged to a police station.

Rhoden, aged 21, a student of Gipsy Hill, Norwood, south London, was given a two-year conditional discharge after admitting causing actual bodily harm to Constable Stephen Harrington.

Mr Terence Munyard, for the defence, said the debt had been incurred by a man who gave her address without her permission. When he defaulted in his payments a writ was issued against Rhoden's goods.

Mr Munyard said the thought of having all her property taken away for a debt she had nothing to do with caused her tremendous distress. She became increasingly upset and demanded that the men should leave. But the entire contents from her home were removed, even though Rhoden produced receipts to prove that the furniture was hers and not the property of the defaulter, who had never lived at that address.

Miss Edwina Mansell, for the prosecution, said the bailiff had tried to explain that she was obliged to activate the warrant issued by the High Court.

But Rhoden continued to behave violently and was told that if she did not calm down she would be arrested.

"She was carried bodily to the police station screaming and struggling."

Judge Bennett said: "I am prepared to accept that the assault arose out of an extremely stressful situation. The writ was later rescinded and Rhoden's furniture returned."

Inflation 'punishes' 4m low-paid

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

More than four million full-time adult workers are having their standard of living further reduced because they are low paid, according to a report published today.

Because they spend more on essentials, including housing, fuel and transport, the low-paid experience higher inflation rates than other income groups.

By the end of last year, the living costs of the lowest-paid households had risen by 14½ per cent, compared to the 12 per cent inflation rate recorded by the retail price index (RPI).

The gap between the poorest households and the rest is likely to get bigger, the report says, because rent and rates, fuel prices and fares are all increasing while falling interest rates will reduce the cost of living for the highest paid.

The report is published jointly by the Civil and Public Services Association and Low Pay Unit, which also produces a monthly low-pay price index to measure the impact of inflation on the lowest income groups.

Mr Chris Pond, director of the Low Pay Unit, said yesterday that 4,185,000 full-time adult workers were earning less than £85 a week. The gap was widening, he said, because it was needed to give a family of two adults and two children the same income as their national entitlement on supplementary benefits, and it represents the official poverty line. The total included 175,000 non-industrial civil servants.

Unemployment among the young is rising faster than among adults in spite of falling wage rates over the past five years. That is shown in a new analysis published today by the Unemployment Unit.

The unit says the figures, drawn from official sources, disprove the belief that young people are pricing themselves out of jobs.

Between 1976 and 1981, hourly rates for males aged 21 fell from 55.8 per cent of adult rates to 54.7 per cent. Over the same period, the unemployment rate for young males increased by almost 60 per cent. Young women experienced an even higher increase in the unemployment rate over the same period, although their hourly rates fell from 55.7 per cent of the adult rate to 55.4 per cent.

The unit says the figures reinforce research findings of a Department of Employment of youth and adult earnings to youth unemployment during the 30 years from 1948 to 1978. That study said that variations in youth unemployment "do not appear to have any systematic relationship with changes in the relative earnings of young people."

Protestants and editor clash on anti-Pope rally

By Michael Horsnell

Leaders of the Protestant Reformation Society, which is organizing a rally in Trafalgar Square on May 29 against the Pope's visit, clashed yesterday with the editor of the *Church Times*, the leading Anglican newspaper, because he refused to publish a four-page inset advertising the rally.

The inset includes a cartoon attacking the Pope's visit and offers what its authors describe as an alternative view to the "unqualified welcome" the newspaper is giving to the papal visit.

About 15,000 copies have been distributed with the *Church of England Newspaper* and *The English Churchman*, both of which circulate among Anglican Evangelicals, and another 50,000 have been published by the society for private distribution and insertion in the *Church Times*.

Dr Derek Scates, the society's assistant general secretary and co-author of the inset, said: "This is a question of the paper's Anglo-Catholic ancestry showing through. The *Church Times* has already carried a British Council of Churches advertising feature welcoming the papal visit. I am very disappointed that a Church of England organization cannot now carry an alternative view."

Joint campaign to fight school vandals

From a Staff Reporter Cardiff

Police and education authorities in south Wales launched a campaign yesterday to curb vandalism and destruction in schools which costs ratepayers hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. In extreme cases, whole classrooms have been destroyed by arson, and in other instances schools have been closed so that damage can be repaired.

The authorities hope that through the scheme called "operation schoolwatch", young people will be encouraged to keep watch over their schools during term and holiday time.

In mid Glamorgan the annual cost of vandalism is almost £500,000 and in south Glamorgan the repair bill this year will be about £65,000. South Glamorgan has already spent an additional £20,000 this year on security measures in schools.

In Gwent, where school vandalism has cost more than £250,000 in a five year period, children are offered rewards if their information leads to a successful prosecution.

Mr E Curry-Jones, chairman of south Glamorgan's education committee, said the campaign was "not a sniping exercise." He added: "Money spent repairing vandalism means less available for school books and equipment."

Authority fights £15m sewer plan

NEWS IN SUMMARY

The North West Water Authority may have to spend £15m to stop river pollution if local residents win a court battle (Our Manchester Correspondent writes).

Five householders brought summonses against the authority under the Public Health Act alleging that a stream which runs through south Manchester caused a statutory nuisance.

Mr Stephen Sauvain, for the residents, told Manchester city magistrates yesterday that a pumping station on the stream, which runs from Gorton to Chorlton, could not cope with the flow of sewage, so that the stream was filled with untreated sewage and in hot weather gave off an offensive smell.

The authority admitted the offences and faces a possible fine. It has started renovating the pumping station and is fighting a proposal by the residents who want it to build a new sewer which could take the problem to a cost of £15m. The proposal could be included in a nuisance abatement order against the authority. The case continues.

Oxfam worker took coins

An Oxfam worker stole £60 worth of foreign coins which had been sent to a Blue Peter appeal to provide freshwater pipelines in Indonesia, a court heard yesterday.

Garry French, aged 19, of Orchard Way, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, admitted stealing the coins, which he was sorting at Oxfam's Bicester warehouse. He was fined £25 and ordered to pay £16.25 compensation.

Three colleagues who admitted receiving the coins were each fined £20 by Bicester magistrates.

Bail offence fine for Sophie Cordle

Miss Sophie Cordle, daughter of Mr John Cordle, the former Conservative MP for Bournemouth East, was fined £10 yesterday for failing to answer bail on a prostitution charge.

Miss Cordle, a secretary, aged 24, was arrested on a non-appearance warrant on Sunday. She spent the night in a police cell before appearing at Marlborough Street Court. She is charged with soliciting in Park Lane, Mayfair, on March 8.

Children die in house fire

Cary Grainger, aged five, and his sister Kathy, aged two, died after fire swept through their house in Cumbrian Gardens, Newton Aycliffe, co Durham, yesterday.

Mr David Grainger, their father, jumped from the blazing house just before firemen rescued his son Paul, aged 10 months.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Adventure recruits report in

The first group of young people to join the Government's military-style adventure training scheme reported for duty yesterday. About a dozen youths assembled at RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, to be fitted out for a fortnight's course in physical education. They begin their course in earnest today.

The initial number here is small because we are just getting the course organized. It is likely to increase to about 40 in the next few weeks, an RAF spokesman said.

Atlantic fares 'to stay level'

There will be no further rises in Atlantic air fares this year, Mr Edward Acker, chairman of Pan American World Airways, predicted in London yesterday. Fares could be expected to take their usual seasonal drop in October, but not by the 50 to 60 per cent by which tourist fares to the United States were cut last November, precipitating the collapse of Laker Airways. (Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent, writes).

Six face £26m fraud trial

Six men charged in connection with an alleged plot to defraud the Iranian Government in a £26m bogus arms deal, were yesterday sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

They included Benham Nodjoumi, aged 37, an Iranian company director and a former member of the late Shah's secret police, who was committed in custody from Marylebone Magistrates' Court. His five co-defendants were granted bail, totalling £32,000.

Heart man dies

Mr Clive Wagstaff, a miner, aged 45, of Waterloo Street, Bramley Vale, near Cheshire, Derbyshire, has died at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, nine days after undergoing a heart transplant operation.

Civil servants' 13% pay claim brushed aside

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Government brushed aside the Civil Service unions' 13 per cent pay claim in the yesterday in the most uncompromising defence it has yet made of the use of market forces to determine public sector pay.

The Treasury told the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal that the claim, which also seeks a minimum increase of £12.50 a week, would add nearly 15 per cent to the pay bill and cost more than £600m.

Its submission to the tribunal, chaired by Mr David Calcutt, QC, suggests that given the Civil Service's current ability to recruit and retain staff "it could have been argued that no increase in pay was needed at all in the circumstances of 1982."

The Treasury, whose £170m offer ranges from nil to 5.5 per cent, said it acknowledges that there is a need to motivate staff and to deal with problems of keeping trained staff which, "while diminished", still exist.

The government team said, however, in its submission that evidence on retraining and recruitment of staff — which in some cases has doubled during 1981 — points to a need for "only a very modest increase."

The Treasury submission rejects the union's demand for special help for the low paid and adds bluntly: "The Government does not consider that the pay of civil servants, or any other group, should be determined by the needs of the individual. Pay is a matter for the market place and social needs are the province of the social security system."

Both sides believe that the tribunal, whose opening hearing in London yesterday was held by about 200 militant civil servants, could report as soon as Friday. Recourse to arbitration was provided for in the settlement which ended the 21-week strike of civil servants last year, though the Government made it clear that Parliament could be asked to override the tribunal's findings.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, told Mr Calcutt yesterday that a decision in favour of the Government's market forces offer might "undermine" the union's position towards the present inquiry under Sir John Megaw into a future method of regulating service pay, and "prejudice their outcome."

The Treasury submission, drawn up by a team led by Mr Peter Le Cheminant, Under Secretary, says that if the tribunal follows the pattern of the past with a rate approach taking no

account of the difficulties of recruiting and retaining staff "there would be a growing mismatch between the pattern of pay rates and current management needs."

The tribunal is reminded in the Treasury evidence of the pay offers made to other public service groups, including those to the nurses and teachers and is told: "The pay settlement for the Civil Service could therefore have an economic importance extending well beyond its direct cost."

The Treasury said that the "realism" of its offer, which ranges from nothing for 65,000 civil servants to 5.5 per cent for 240,000 or nearly half the service, is "wholly compatible with the high regard in which the Government holds the performance of the civil service."

Mr Kendall told the tribunal yesterday that it had become the "custodian of industrial relations in the Civil Service". The union evidence said the 530,000 white collar civil servants were looking to the tribunal to prevent the unfair and discriminatory treatment implied by the offer.

The evidence points to the statement at a meeting with the union last April by Lord Sainsbury, then Lord President of the Council, that comparisons with outside pay "would naturally have a role to play" and that it was not the Government's intention to allow civil servants' pay to fall behind.

The unions claim that the present offer is a "denial" of comparability and accuses ministers of "deliberate failure to honour government assurances" given in 1981 which, it says, formed much of the basis for ending the strike. The offer reflected "a crude attempt to divide and rule" by differentiating between groups.

The union evidence says that the offer would mean that civil servants would have seen their living standards decline between ten and 16 per cent over a two year period since April 1980.

The decision to award nothing to most staff under 21 on pay scales related to age is to reflect an "arbitrary view that young people are overpaid".

The Treasury, by contrast, says that the Government has heeded market forces and management factors including increased rewards for skill, experience, and responsibility, all of which factors are necessary for a "more efficient Civil Service."

The Government also has a wider duty "not to spend more money than is necessary" as a vital contribution to the economic health and prosperity of the nation.



Former dancer is North's first black headmaster

Mr Carlton Duncan, who yesterday became the first black headmaster in the north of England, with some of his pupils at Wyke Manor Upper School in Bradford (Our Leeds correspondent writes).

Mr Duncan, who is 41 and Jamaican-born, came to Bradford from Coventry and had recently served on Lord Swan's committee of inquiry into the education of ethnic minorities. Ten per cent of

the pupils aged between 13 and 18 at Wyke Manor Upper School are black.

Mr Duncan was a professional dancer for 10 years before joining the teaching profession in 1972.

As he looked around the 1,000-pupil comprehensive school yesterday, many children and staff asked him about the health of his wife, Saurinder, aged 24, who is expect-

ing test-tube twins in September. She became pregnant after receiving treatment at the Cambridge clinic of Mr Patrick Sapego.

Mr Duncan said of his appointment yesterday: "I see this job as a challenge. At the moment, I am finding my way round and meeting everyone. I have some new ideas for the school which I shall consider when I have settled down."

Noise health warnings sought

By David Nicholson-Lord

Insurance companies' display advertisements may soon carry health warnings on the effects of noise, if a protest group's campaign succeeds.

The chairman of all Britain's leading insurers are being asked to include the warning, free of charge, on advertising and company literature.

The text, supplied by the Noise Abatement Society, says noise "can seriously damage your health" and adds: "Don't make unnecessary noise yourself. Don't accept it from others. There are laws against noise. Use them."

The society's appeal coincides with today's opening of the biennial congress of the International Association against noise in Vienna. There are expected to be strong protests there about the alleged failure of governments to legislate adequately on noise and about what are seen as unrealistic standards.

One must, however, be fair both to the Barbican and to

health department has issued one resident with earplugs and headphones (Our Derby Correspondent writes).

The road in question is the last section of the Leeds to Exeter trunk route. Mrs Elsie Lazarri, of Maxwell Avenue, Derby, was issued with earplugs after a prolonged soundproof wall separating her garden from the road works was not built.

Mrs Lazarri said yesterday: "The noise is so bad that even when I wear the earplugs I can still hear it. The noise just drums back into my head. It is like being in the middle of a battle field."

Mr Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North, plans to seek and adjournment debate to discuss the conduct of road building.

He said: "I thought the conditions are absolutely intolerable for people. The contractors appear to be working all hours and double glazing and other protection was not completed before the worst of the work started."

Surprise choice as principal

By Diana Gaddes, Education Correspondent

Dr William Taylor, director of the London University Institute of Education for the past nine years, is the university's unexpected choice for the much-sought-after post of principal, the chief administrative and financial officer of London University.

His appointment, in succession to Mr Hamish Stewart who retired in July 1981 after five years in the post, is expected to be announced before the next meeting of the university senate at the end of this month.

As principal, Dr Taylor, who is 51 and who until now has spent his winters teaching in the United States, will be responsible for an annual budget of £200m.

The post, which is considered crucial to the university's future, attracted some unexpected and distinguished candidates, including Mr Geoffrey Crosse, former registrar of Oxford University and now Secretary of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. Mr Dudley Fiske, chief education officer of Manchester, and Mr Geoffrey Lockwood, registrar of Sussex University.

Yorkshire seeks US help on the buses

From Ronald Kershaw, Wakefield

American consultants are to study West Yorkshire's public transport system and suggest a cost-cutting programme which will not affect services.

Mr John Gunnell, the county council leader, said the study would have national implications, bearing in mind the House of Lords judgement which led to the doubling of fares in London. Government plans to cut spending on bus subsidies and the problems of public transport elsewhere in Britain.

The first phase of the study will cost £122,000, less than a quarter of 1 per cent of this year's subsidy.

The company Booz, Allen and Hamilton, already has a team of nine in South Yorkshire and will produce the first reports in July. A decision on whether to extend the study will be taken after that.

The company has recently completed similar studies in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. Mr Gunnell said the United States had more experience than Britain of serious transport decline and by drawing on it West Yorkshire could be five years ahead of the rest of the country in its approach to public transport problems.

He said: "I do not expect magic or instant solutions. There is no Midas touch in public transport, but this major study, coupled with public consultation, will make us the most forward-looking passenger transport authority in the country."

Mr Gunnell said the Government's expectation that fares should provide a high proportion of running costs had led to a cycle of decline in which fare increases were followed by passenger losses and reductions in service.

In West Yorkshire the system has buckled. From 1975 and 1980 there were three fare increases. There had been fewer passengers and fewer services.

He said the Labour administration had taken a "hard line" on fares when it took over last year. Since then it had taken a series of measures to support the buses, including denying a supplementary rate and the number of passengers was now increasing.

Public transport in West Yorkshire would continue to cost the taxpayers a great deal of money. It was in everybody's interest that all possible savings were considered.

Anti-oil slick squadron set up for £780,000

Government plans to fight a chemical war against oil pollution: anti-oil slick British coastguard announced yesterday.

The Department of Trade's Marine Pollution Control Unit, which is responsible for dealing with oil slicks, is setting up a squadron of eight aircraft based in Scotland and England on permanent standby. They can be airborne at 30 minutes' notice by day and in two hours at night.

Rear Admiral Michael Stacey, the unit's director, said yesterday that the bases were at Southend, Exeter, West Freugh near Stranraer and Kilmessie. The aircraft to be used are six British Normant Islanders and DC-8s which have been adapted for low level spraying of chemicals.

The Southend-based crop spraying firm of Harvest Air Limited has been awarded the contract. The annual cost of the service will be £780,000.

New 24th Issue National Savings Certificates

£153 for £100 in five years

The 24th Issue National Savings Certificate is now on sale. It guarantees to pay £153 in five years for every £100 invested. That's equivalent to a compound annual interest rate of 8.92% over the full term.

How many other savings schemes can guarantee this for five years ahead? (Whatever happens to other interest rates in that period.) But that's not all!

Tax free benefits

The return is free of all UK income tax (including investment income surcharge) and capital gains tax.

This means that anyone paying income tax at the basic rate of 30% would need a gross annual interest of 12.74% guaranteed for five years to enjoy the same benefit. But with National Savings Certificates you don't even have to declare them on your tax form!

Where to buy

Buy Certificates from most post offices and banks. They're sold in units of £25 and the maximum holding is £2,500 (that's in addition to any other National Savings Certificates you have).

If you need to cash in the new Certificate before the full 5 years this usually takes about a week.

The interim rates — once you have held the Certificate for 12 months — are still good. Get full details from the leaflet at post offices or banks.

24th Issue

National Savings Certificates

Guaranteed Tax free.

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24th Issue

National Savings Certificates

Slump in zoo visitors as society loses £1m

The number of visitors to Regent's Park Zoo, in London, dropped by 21 per cent as the London Zoological Society lost more than £1m last year, it is revealed today.

The drop in the number of visitors is described in the society's annual report as a serious and entirely unforeseen rate of decline.

The society's other zoo, Whipsnade, also suffered despite its lavish fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Visitors there were 2 per cent down in 1981. The decline is blamed on the recession and poor weather.

The society reported an operating loss of £1,152,000 last year, but Lord Zuckerman, the president, said a day at the zoo was still a favorite family outing. He pointed to recent surveys showing the two zoos

are still popular. A poll of 263 south-east households showed that in 25 per cent of the homes at least one person had visited a zoo in the last three years.

In another survey of 1,000 homes around Britain the figure was one in seven. This indicated that parents still considered taking their children to the zoo an essential part of their education, he said.

Lord Zuckerman admitted that higher entrance charges could have priced zoos out of the market, but confirmed that the Government had agreed to a big grant to help the society through its difficulties.

He dismissed claims that wildlife programmes on television had killed the public's appetite for seeing animals in zoos.

Architecture

Terminal orthodoxy at the Barbican

By Charles McKean, Architecture Correspondent

The great and glorious Barbican, the Centre for the Arts, has never before been given the chance to design an airport terminal, but among their buildings are some of the finest designs of the '50s and '60s. Yet it surely would be easier to find your way to your flight in an airport than it is to your destination in the Barbican Arts Centre.

The foyer area consists of a series of great staircases, in relatively short flights of deep carpet, differentiated one from the other solely by the design of whatever housing to modern sculpture they have designed to suspend from the ceiling above.

It is perfectly reasonable to suppose that if you mount all those steps you will arrive at some vista, as in the National Theatre, from which you would obtain a tremendous view of the city, and sense of exciting volume. Irrespective of whether you like the bare concrete and coffered ceilings of the National, it were foolish to deny the excitement of how the main entrance, foyers, and the staircases can provide variety, interest and incident. No such excitement

can be gained at the Barbican. Instead, the Barbican's spaces all seemed cramped as though squashed by the mighty weight of the bush-hammered concrete above. Indeed, everything about the building is heavy, heavy in detail, heavy in furnishing, and design, heavy in inspiration.

From the deep red painted ceilings above the lower bar to the ground curving exhibition gallery behind the concert hall, inspiration gives way to Teutonic worthiness.

It is not a matter, as Mr. Rodney Gradidge seems to imply, of preferring plaster cherubs and gilt swags to the austerity of bush-hammered concrete. It is something more fundamental than that. Modern architecture, as credit as seeking a space as any previous era, more so when it takes proper advantage of new structural techniques and materials. But even in that one concession to lightness — the so-called "conservatory" — the design is still orthodox.

It may seem from the above that the new centre is a worthless design. Nothing could be further from the

truth. It is well worth a visit — even apart from the bonus of coming to a play, or a drink. And the auditoria do have a satisfying feeling of opulent grandeur. Any sadness derived from this new centre, comes mainly from a knowledge of missed opportunities.

As is so often the case, the design was never quite sure exactly what they were creating, and have therefore produced a hybrid, a building that is not quite at work of art, not a work of conviction, but an assemblage of bits of other buildings that have stimulated the designer. To be a few comparative: the Barbican Arts Centre has none of the transitory glow and glory of that artistic aircraft hangar in Norfolk, the Sainsbury Centre; none of the wealthy austerity and single mindedness of the Milton Keynes Shopping Centre; and none of the arrogance of the National Theatre.

However, a few months is infinitesimal in the life span of this building. It may well be that future generations will regard the Barbican Arts Centre as one of the finer buildings of the mid-1960s.

Dr William Taylor, budget of £200m a year

Yorkshire seeks US help on the buses

From Ronald Kershaw Wakefield

American consultants are to study West Yorkshire's public transport system and suggest a cost-cutting programme which will not affect services.

Mr John Cunneen, the county council leader, said the study would have national implications, being in mind the House of Lords' doubling of fares in London, Government plans to cut spending on bus subsidies and the problems of public transport elsewhere in Britain.

The first phase of the study will cost £122,000, less than a quarter of 1 per cent of this year's subsidy.

The company Booz, Allen and Hamilton, already has a team of nine experts in Leeds and will produce the first reports in July. A decision on whether to extend the study will be taken after that.

The company has recently completed similar studies in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. Mr Cunneen said the United States had more experience than Britain in urban transport decisions.

By drawing on a first-hand knowledge of the country in its approach to public transport problems, he said: "We do not expect magic or instant solutions. There is no Midas touch in public transport, but a major study, coupled with public consultation, will make us the most forward-looking passenger transport authority in the country."

Mr Cunneen said the Government's expectation that fares should provide a high proportion of running costs had led to a cycle of decline in which fare increases were followed by passenger losses and reductions in service.

In West Yorkshire the system had lurches from one crisis to another. In both 1975 and 1976 there were fare increases. There had been fewer passengers in 1976 than in 1975.

He said the Labour administration had inherited a huge deficit when it took over the system. When it had taken over, it had taken a number of measures to improve the buses, including a supplementary rate of £1.5 million a year.

When the decisions were made, the transport authority would be able to pay the ratepayers' money. It was the savings which would be used to improve the service.

Anti-oil slick squadron set up for £780,000

The Home Office has announced the formation of a new unit to deal with oil slicks.

The unit, which is responsible for dealing with oil slicks, will be based in Southampton. It will be equipped with a fleet of six boats and a number of aircraft.

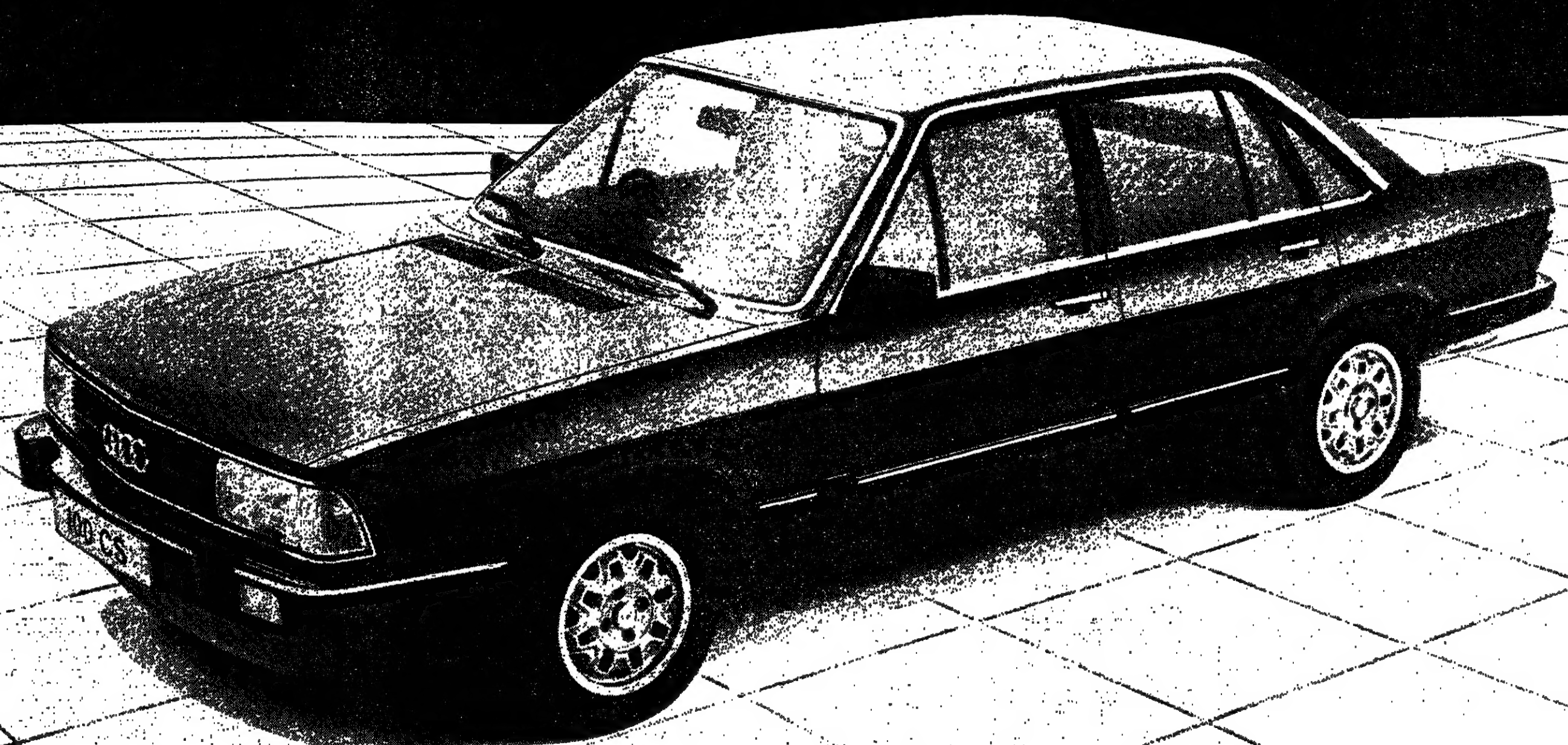
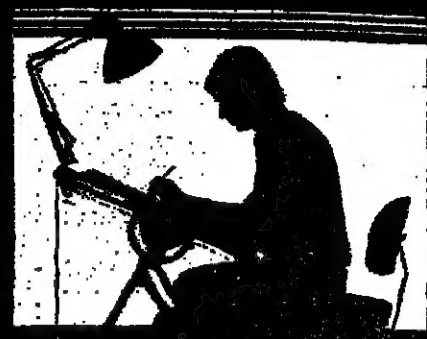
The unit will be able to deal with oil slicks of up to 100,000 gallons. It will be able to deal with oil slicks of up to 100,000 gallons.

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front spoiler, alloy sports wheels, a protective waistline strip, headlamp washers and integral foglights. Inside, you'll find check tweed upholstery, open front head restraints, a sports steering wheel, power steering, five seat belts and remote control for the door mirrors. The 23 cu ft boot is adaptable for through-loading into the cabin for long objects like skis or golf clubs. The 100 CS has a five-speed gearbox with

the high fifth gear marked E, for economy. Which accounts for the dramatic fuel consumption figures in high speed cruising. Automatic transmission is optional. And like all Audis, the 100 CS has front-wheel drive. All of which adds a great deal to the 100. And at £8,549, the deal looks even better. **Audi 100 CS** Drive yourself as you never have before.

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Brandt oratory fails to rouse half empty hall

From Patricia Clough, Munich, April 19

Willy Brandt, the Social Democratic chairman, tried to rally his divided and unpopular party with the appeal "let us start again".

He opened the party's two-yearly congress with a call for a new sense of direction for a new chapter of social reforms and for social discipline.

He told his pacifists that there was "no other way" to disarmament than the Nato station-negotiate missile pact. But he also urged them in all his famous conciliatory talents to try to bring members together again.

"I ask you all," he cried, "for a great new effort. Let us dare to go forward."

The Congress, he said, must be "a congress of Social Democratic renewal."

But whether it was simply the inhospitable atmosphere of the vast covered Olympic arena where he was speaking or whether the crisis in the party is too far gone, Herr Brandt failed to electrify the 440 delegates as he once could do so well.

His two-hour speech which blazed through reverberating microphones to the half-empty hall, sounded weak and lacked inspiring proposals. Afterwards delegates stood and applauded but there were no cheers.

Herr Brandt said he shared many of the aims of the peace movement and roused the strongest applause when he spoke of the "insecurity of the contradiction between the arms race and world hunger."

He said he feared "the illusions of those who wanted unilateral disarmament" and said they were out of touch with reality. "I fear more the irrational consequences of unprovoked disarmament," he said, "the policy of détente," he said, had not failed.

Russians go it alone under the sea

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, April 19

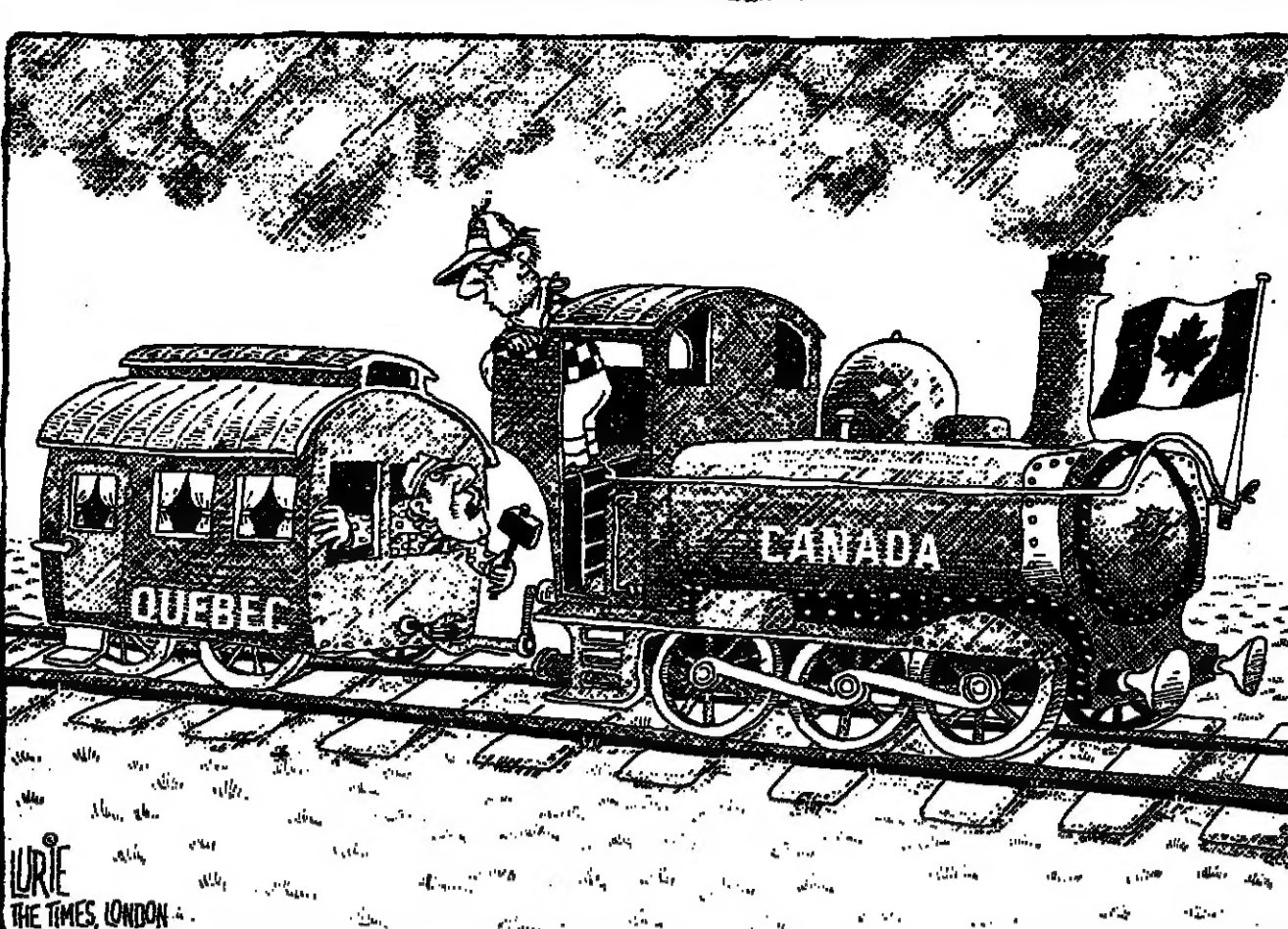
The Soviet Union has issued a decree allowing Soviet organizations to exploit mineral resources on the ocean floor outside territorial waters. The move has been officially described as a response to American attempts to change the draft convention on the Law of the Sea.

The decree, issued at the weekend by the Supreme Soviet, allows state enterprises to seek permits to prospect for resources beyond the limits of the continental shelf, and lays down rules for exploitation. These deal with the setting up of off shore rigs, pollution control, observance of international law and freedom of navigation, and include regulations governing any joint ventures with foreign companies.

The preamble to the decree says the Russians have been forced to take measures to protect their interests, since other countries have already begun unilaterally to exploit the seabed. The Soviet Union was still in favour of an international agreement, however, and would still press for a successful conclusion to the present convention.

Commenting on the measures, *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* said at the weekend that the draft law had taken eight years to negotiate and reflected a balance of interests that gave nobody unilateral advantage. It accused the Reagan Administration of going back on earlier American agreement and demanding fundamental revisions which were opposed alike by many capitalists, developing and socialist countries.

"American companies, in view of the unreliability of raw material imports for the American industry, have lately started displaying a still greater interest in the possibility of extracting strategic raw materials from sea and ocean beds," the paper said.



"We want to separate and proceed independently."

Polish journalists vetted in 'good conduct' trials

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 19

The scene in the Polish newspaper office resembled one of those American television courtroom dramas of the 1950s, coyly subtitled "The case of the Howling Dog or Justice in the Afternoon".

At one end of the room sat four men soberly dressed, shuffling papers, scraping their chairs, coughing impatiently. Strategically positioned at a slight angle to the main table, another man radiates the curious blend of omniscience and omnipotence that comes from being both a journalist and a state-employed bureaucrat.

Facing the tribunal, there is a young rather nervous fellow, leaning respectfully forward in his chair: the candidate for "verification". This is the process of weeding out the ideological impure, the rotten apples in the journalistic barrel. So far the tribunal system has been used mainly against Polish journalists and lawyers, though university lecturers fear that it might be soon used against them. According to Solidarity underground bulletin, 1,200 journalists have lost their jobs as a result of verification.

That seems, in the estimation of many journalists to be an exaggerated figure but certainly the combination of those ousted from their jobs by verification.

Those transferred from politics to sports departments - adds up to several hundred. *Gazeta Krakowska*, the Cracow party daily, alone lost 21 of its writing staff after martial law was imposed.

That kind of inquisition is "verification"? Those who go through it are generally told not to reveal details of the proceedings but, as the situation relaxes, journalists have been less chary of passing on information about the tribunals. In the first weeks after martial law it was clearly a tough experience.

Articles written by the journalist were presented as a type of evidence for the prosecution, though of course the tribunal has no formal legal status. Casual statements made in the presence of colleagues-cum-informers are mentioned and dissected. Particularly suspect were those who had covered the Solidarity congress in September 1981, presumably because of the danger of infection.

Nowadays the process has become calmer, more of a formality. Talking to a journalist who had just emerged much relieved from his verification, it is evident that a more offhand attitude now prevails. "They have got rid of who they want. The prospect of verification keeps people in line. People are afraid of challenging their editors or making a nuisance of themselves".

According to a journalist from a Polish news organization, there were four men on his tribunal which was chaired by a member of the Central Committee press department. Also taking part in the proceedings was his editor, simultaneously a journalist and a party official.

For the first 15 minutes, according to this journalist, he was not required to speak at all. His editor read out a glowing report on the virtues and of his political record. "We hope soon," he concluded, "to welcome him into the ranks of the party."

A hope, one need scarcely add, that has no basis in reality.

The first question to the candidate, a respected journalist in his news organization: "Why are you paid so much?"

The editor answers for his employee: "This is a further sign of the industriousness of Mr X". The editor thus acts almost as a defence lawyer, a Perry Mason. He does not want to lose a good worker, nor does he want to lose face with him.

The candidate is asked to explain the relative weakness of Solidarity in his news organization. The candidate has a smooth reply: Solidarity thrived on the tension between employers and the workforce, there was now no such tension in his organization. The questions then proceed along the lines of where did Solidarity go wrong? What were they planning? The candidate gives the right answers. The session then closes.

The editor is told soon afterwards that his journalist has "passed" and the process is then repeated with other reporters.

Here then is the measure of ideological purity in martial law Poland. What counts is not a citizen's attitude to the government, to the Communist party, to the military authorities, but rather the degree of sympathy with Solidarity.

"Those who are not against us, are for us", seems to be the guiding principle in Polish newspaper journalism. Television reporters however, are subjected to much stricter questioning.

Swapo use mines in new attack

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, April 19

A trail of land mines has been laid by a large band of Swapo guerrillas which has infiltrated deep into Namibia.

As South African units continued a massive hunt-to-kill operation which began during the Easter weekend, a military spokesman said today that the mine-laying was a new tactic by Swapo (South West Africa People's Organisation).

Brigadier Jan Kloppe said in Windhoek that in the past Swapo guerrillas had only set anti-personnel mines. "This is the first time that land mines have been encountered in the farming region," he said.

The Swapo force, estimated to be about 10,000 strong, has penetrated into the so-called "death triangle" bounded by the towns of Tsumeb, Tseibes and Oshana south of the Kavango homeland.

It is the largest incursion mounted by Swapo since South African forces carried out a series of raids against its bases in southern Angola and, according to the spokesman, indicates that the organization has been extensively re-equipped by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries.

As well as mines, the guerrillas are believed to be carrying Sam 7 anti-aircraft missiles and forcing South African aircraft and helicopters hunting them to use evasive tactics.

Security forces have lost eight men killed in the operation, six when an armoured personnel carrier was ambushed.

Another farmer was badly injured in a separate mine blast and a farmer in Pretoria and an army lieutenant was injured by shrapnel.

Two black children, aged seven and 11, were also killed in a mine blast during the weekend.

Security forces have lost eight men killed in the operation, six when an armoured personnel carrier was ambushed.

Prisoners of conscience



Russia: Dr Sergei Kovalyov

By Caroline Moorehead

Dr Sergei Adamovich Kovalyov, a noted Soviet physicist, the field of cellular bio-physics, is serving a seven-year sentence in a corrective labour colony for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

Dr Kovalyov was a founder member of Dr Andrei Sakharov's Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the Soviet Union, and a member of the Moscow Amnesty Group.

Before his arrest in 1974 he had signed protests against conditions on labour camps and against the use of psychiatric hospitals to punish dissidents. He had also appealed publicly on behalf of individual prisoners of conscience and spoken out against the repression of religious minorities.

In December 1974 the KGB secret police searched Dr Kovalyov's apartment and came away with documents concerning human rights activities. He was arrested and tried in secret. His trial is believed to have been a gross abuse of Soviet judicial procedures and to have violated the Helsinki Accord.

Reports suggest that Dr Kovalyov continues to work on human rights matters from inside the camp, and that he has repeatedly been punished by solitary confinement. His health is said to be bad: he suffers from headaches, bleeding gums and hypertension and is losing his teeth.

Spanish army takes over border control

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, April 19

Spanish Army units took up positions along the French border today to prevent illegal crossings. They were putting into effect one of the special anti-terrorist measures adopted by the Spanish Government after a weekend of violence in which Basque extremists took advantage of an apparent security lapse to blow up the country's most important automatic telephone exchange.

The escalation of terrorism which began with a bazooka attack in San Sebastian last Wednesday, has continued. Terrorists attacked a barracks of the Civil Guard at Eibar, near San Sebastian, with grenades and sub-machine guns, just before midnight last night. One civilian was wounded when police returned fire. He was hit by a stray bullet while the police were firing at the police barracks.

The mounting violence is related to a demand by ETA terrorists that the Government remove all forces of public order from the Basque country by the middle of next month.

An offer by the Interior Ministry of a 10m pesetas (€54,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the ETA gang who are involved in the offensive, was broadcast throughout today on radio and television news programmes, and by late this afternoon authorities said there had already been considerable response.

Workers were still cleaning up the rubble at the site of the wrecked telephone exchange here. The broad street running in front of the exchange's skeletal remains as reopened to traffic this afternoon. Telephone services, with certain limitations, were restored in most of the capital today but inter-provincial calls could be made only through operators.

A data processing system used by banks and financial institutions was put back into service today, with some limitations, through the use of other memory banks. A team of architects said repairs to the five-storey reinforced concrete building would take about two months to complete.

The special measures adopted after an unusual Sunday meeting between senior Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, and key members of his Cabinet, included the cancellation of all leave for members of the armed forces and the public order forces, the assignment of military units to guard certain stations, and the use of army personnel rather than police, for border control.

Some of the measures were designed to free policemen from other duties in order to make as many of them as possible available for duty in anti-terrorist operations.

While not all aspects of the anti-terrorist operation were revealed, it appears to resemble closely the series of steps taken early last year to reduce the terrorist threat.

These efforts met with considerable success, judging by the reduction in the number of extremist attacks, and the armed forces were gradually pulled back from police-type duties as the terrorist pressure seemed to diminish.

Police sources say that all of the ETA's terrorist squads, whose members normally reside in France, are in Spain, taking part in the offensive.

Women internees likely to be freed

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw, April 19

Polish Authorities appear to be preparing the release of a substantial number of women internees according to unofficial reports coming from detention camps. Some military units have been told that they will soon be able to use holiday centres now being used as detention camps.

These reports may simply mean that the women are being transferred to other internment camps but two related developments indicate that a release is planned, probably next month. Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, called at the weekend for the freeing of women prisoners, interned without trial.

This was an unusually specific appeal at a time when the Government is showing increasing readiness to talk with the Catholic church. Secondly, there are indications, from underground bulletins, that some women occupied important posts in the suspended Solidarity organization, so the risks of the released prisoners forming a rallying point for the opposition are slight.

Meanwhile, it is understood that Warsaw police have found the transmitter used to broadcast the illegal Solidarity radio bulletin last week. Apparently the broadcast had been taped recorded beforehand and then plugged into a primitive transmitter.

Rome: Archbishop Jozef Glemp is to visit Rome for consultations with the Pope on April 26, it was announced here today. — Reuter.

Freeing women internees would not only appease the church, it would also represent a relatively painless propaganda move for the authorities. Only a few women occupied important posts in the suspended Solidarity organization, so the risks of the released prisoners forming a rallying point for the opposition are slight.

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Rome: Archbishop Jozef Glemp is to visit Rome for consultations with the Pope on April 26, it was announced here today. — Reuter.

Two faces of Basque nationalism baffle Madrid

From Harry Debelius, Bilbao, April 19

During the night several young men carefully taped a small package to the metal door of a solidly built transformer shed at Lezama, near Bilbao. Then they pulled back to a safe distance and, in the pre-dawn hours of Easter morning, pressed the button. Three towns and one Bilbao district were plunged into darkness.

A few hours later, in a vast fair pavilion in Bilbao, a balding, mustachioed man in a white vest and blue denim trousers, with a blue sash wound around his waist, lifted a 220lb cylindrical stone to his right shoulder and time and time again, bobbing steadily up and down with rarely a pause to catch his breath.

He hoisted it 102 times in 10 minutes before he stopped. Onlookers applauded and shouted *Gora!*

Each in his own way, the stone-lifter and the bombers were doing the same thing: commemorating *Eguna*, the Basque National Day.

The stone-lifter and those of his compatriots with similar patience and determination were celebrating the centenary of the rebirth of Basque nationalism, through the midwifery of Sabino Arana, author and founder of the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV).

They were also celebrating the fifth Basque National Day, first organized in 1932 to show how mistaken Miguel Primo de Rivera, the Spanish dictator, had been when he said that Basque nationalism was dead.

The men who placed the explosive charge are members of the ETA terrorist organization, marking in their secessionist way *Aberri-Eguna* under the rule of Madrid.

That bomb was but a small sample of the violence which erupted later in the week, when ETA was to escalate its urban guerrilla war, firing bazooka shells in several cities and blowing up the country's most important telephone exchange.

Despite the nationalist fervour, more than half the population of the Basque region was not born there.

Most of the immigrants are from the depressed regions of Andalusia and Extremadura, attracted to the Basque country by its once buoyant but currently stagnant economy.

Even among the people whose ancestors were born in the region, there are many who cannot speak the ancient Basque tongue. Franco did not allow it to be taught, published, broadcast or used for official purposes.

Yet, so contagious is their love of the land — and so deep are the roots of those returned from exile — that even the children of many Andalusian immigrants are eager learners at the *Ikastolas* (schools) where all instruction is conducted in Euskera and *Batzokis* (meeting houses and cultural centres sponsored by the dominant Basque Nationalist Party).

There was another, more commonplace, but nevertheless significant, activity on the Basque National Day: scuffles between demonstrators and riot police.

The demonstrations, involving no more than a few hundred persons in each case, were staged throughout the region by a pro-ETA political coalition, the *Herri Batasuna* (People's Unity), were sparked by the Madrid-appointed provincial governor's ban on *Aberri-Eguna* meetings.

It is impossible to overlook the violence in the Basque country, but while some people there abhor it, others try to justify it, claiming that Madrid tries to silence systematically even the most unselfish manifestations of nationalist sentiment. Moderates, as well as extremists, feel that the Basque country does not have enough control over its own affairs. The difference is in the way they react to that situation.

In the past few years, nearly all Basque political leaders have moved away from their previous somewhat ambiguous stand on terrorism. After the latest round of bazooka attacks and bombs, *Señor Carlos Garaikoetxea*, of the Basque Nationalist Party and the president of the regional government, issued a communiqué condemning "any attempt to justify, or to diminish the guilt attached to these crimes which constitute a desperate attempt to provoke reactionary elements and sink democracy."

At the same time he expressed "the will to assume as soon as possible in Euzkadi the responsibilities and the authorities in police matters which the autonomous region is entitled by statute to assume."

Moderate politicians in Bilbao feel that it is a mistake to use the police against the more radical political forces, and it is a mistake to ban their meetings, unless there is a reasonable expectation that violence might occur.

Such a reaction by the forces which represent the central Spanish Government only lends credence to the extreme nationalists' present denunciations of "oppression" by "occupation forces". Worse still, abuse of force and instances of torture by police, the moderates explain, make excellent recruiting arguments for ETA.

Mauroy an unhappy man in the middle

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 19

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today attempted to arbitrate in the clash between M. Gaston Defferre, his Minister of the Interior, and M. Robert Badinter, his Minister of Justice, which broke out into the open last week over the extension of police powers.

True to his temperament, more inclined to confrontation than to laying down the law, the Prime Minister reminded the two men of their duty of solidarity. Government policy was decided in Cabinet and not thrashed out in public debate on the market place, as it has been too frequently since the Government took office, last June.

He also tried to placate both: the Minister of Justice, by confirming that the "security and liberty law of the previous conservative Government, which sharply tightened up the powers of the police and the courts, would definitely be repealed by the end of the parliamentary session in June; and the Minister of the Interior by assuring him that the whole Government, including the Minister of Justice, shared his concern to ensure the security of Frenchmen.

The Prime Minister's Solomonic judgment is likely to satisfy neither, and once again President Mitterrand will have to take in hand personally an affair which is much more than a conflict between two of his own ministers. It is a controversy which raises fundamental questions of policy, and threatens the cohesion and credibility of the left wing coalition in power since last summer.

Incidentally, it has dealt another blow to the authority of M. Mauroy, who already faces criticism not only in Communist ranks, which is natural, but also in Socialist ones for his concessions last week to employers over tax and other cost cuts.

It will not be the first time M. Mitterrand has had to straighten out differences between members of the Government. The Socialist tendency to doctrinal debate waxes more fiercely when he is abroad, and his steady hand is removed from the tiller.

Last December, while on a state visit to Moscow, he had to still the controversy in Government and party over the "pause" in reforms called for by M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister. This time, no sooner back from Japan, he must restore the coherence of government policy over law and order and over its economic objectives.

The surprising concessions to employers in taxes and social costs have been widely interpreted on the left and on the right as a "pause" which dare not say its name, a switch to economic realism which the setback of the left in the local elections last month called for: nothing short of a "social democratisation" of change.

The Communists have not been slow to condemn these "concessions" to employers, to point out that the compromise was not achieved by compromise to the right. Even in the Socialist Party and some trade unions, concern is voiced that the Government has been forced into giving a good deal away with only the vague assurance that the employers will respond by stepping up investment.

When Malaysians go to the polls on Thursday they will be voting in their country's most important election since independence, breaking the last slender connexion with the colonial past.

Danuk Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed, the Prime Minister, is seeking a mandate for a rigorous new style of government which has so far shown neither fear nor favour in attacking corruption and in adopting policies typified by an unwillingness to think along conventional lines or to compromise.

No one seriously suggests that he will not win the election, which has been surprisingly short of issues, but the poll results will indicate how far the policies of concession and compromise, which were the hallmark of the previous Government, may be abandoned.

The election is at both state and national levels, and an indication of the determination to break with the past can be seen from the dropping of no fewer than 59 candidates of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) coalition at national level. It is a measure also of the Government's confidence that it will at least retain its 133 seats out of the 154 seats in the Parliament.

The opposition is seeking to reduce the Government's tenure of two-thirds of the seats in the House and deprive it of the ability to amend the constitution at will.

Since independence in 1957 there have been hundreds of amendments to the constitution which the opposition has been powerless to resist. The Opposition fears these modifications might continue

Europe decides on equal summers for all

From George Clark, Strasbourg, April 19

Calling attention to the difficulties caused to travellers by different dates for the end of summer time from the rest of the European Community, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday backed the EEC Commission's Proposal for a uniform arrangement.

This would ensure that summer time in the period 1983 to 2000 will start on the last Sunday in March unless this is celebrated as Easter in one or more member states, in which event the summer-time will start on the previous Sunday. It will end on the second Sunday in October.

This year summer time will end on October 24 in Britain and Ireland, and on September 26 in the rest of the EEC.

Courtroom uproar after Begin minister convicted

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, April 19

Mr. Aharon Abuhazzeira, the Israeli Minister of Labour, Welfare and Immigrant Absorption, was convicted in the district court here today of misuse of money from a charitable fund he controlled when he was mayor of Ramla before joining the Begin government. He could receive a three-year imprisonment for theft and shorter sentences for lesser offences. Sentencing was deferred until Wednesday.

The conviction triggered a frenzied demonstration by hundreds of fellow immigrants from North Africa, who claim the minister had been a victim of ethnic discrimination. Demonstrators jamming the stairway to the sixth-floor courtroom chanted: "Sephardi state, Sephardi state" and sang: "Abraham, king of Israel, lives on." In the courtroom, a spectator shouted: "This is a Dreyfus case, anti-Semitic and anti-Sephardi." Policemen hustled him, kicking and screaming, outside.

Tami, the ethnic party founded by Mr. Abuhazzeira before the last general election, tonight passed a vote of confidence in their leader, who told them: "They'll not

break me." The party, with three seats in the Knesset, is part of Menachem Begin's ruling coalition, which has 60 of the 120 seats in Parliament.

Israeli law does not prevent a convicted thief from retaining his membership of the Government and Parliament. The Prime Minister is empowered to oust him from the Government and Parliament can vote to suspend his membership pending the outcome of an appeal. Such action would probably cause Tami to quit the coalition and bring down the Government.

If Mr. Abuhazzeira loses his appeal and is sentenced to at least one year's imprisonment, Parliament can vote to expel him.

In court today Judge Victoria Ostrowsky-Kohn said Mr. Abuhazzeira, as mayor of Ramla, had supplied false information in recommending a Ministry of Interior grant for a fund in memory of his late father, to help needy students. She said Mr. Abuhazzeira and Mr. Moshe Gabai, the treasurer, who was also convicted, used the funds like a "private estate". The largest fund went to themselves and their

political cronies rather than to the needy, she said.

Mr. Abuhazzeira was indicted on May 24, the same day he was acquitted of an earlier charge of accepting kickbacks from initiated government grants to educational institutions when he was Minister for Religious Affairs in Mr. Begin's previous government.

This was cited today by his supporters as evidence of a crusade against him by Jews of European stock, who dominate the Israeli establishment. They said the 44-year-old leader had been a rapidly rising political figure and "they wanted to clip his wings".

His supporters also claimed that the judge had been prejudiced.

Mr. Abuhazzeira is the first Cabinet minister to be convicted of a crime, but highly placed officials previously jailed include a nominee for governor of the Bank of Israel, a member of Parliament and a former mayor of Rehovot and a director of customs.

A Prime Minister was also convicted to resign because his wife kept foreign bank accounts in a Washington bank. All were of European stock.

FALKLANDS CRISIS

Haig future may rest on peaceful solution

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 19

The outcome of Mr. Alexander Haig's attempts to find a solution to the Falklands crisis is being seen in Washington as of critical importance to his own future as Secretary of State.

As the talks with the junta in Buenos Aires dragged on through the weekend, the crisis was growing speculation that his tenure at the State Department would be thrown into question if he returned to Washington without having reached agreement on a peace formula.

At the same time, however, it was being conceded that if he was able to prevent an outbreak of hostilities between Britain and Argentina, his position within the Administration would be greatly enhanced.

Officials here have continued to remain silent about the progress of his mediation effort. However, the latest reports from Buenos Aires today indicated that a solution was beginning to emerge.

Mr. Haig has been the target of a whispering campaign of criticism ever since he began his shuttle diplomacy 12 days ago.

First there was a series of leaks to *The New York Times* about a dispute with the White House over which aircraft he should use on his journeys between Washington, London and Buenos Aires.

White House officials said Mr. Haig declined to fly in the first aircraft that was offered to him because it did not have any windows. Mr. Haig's aides contended that it was not the lack of windows that concerned him, but that he wanted an aircraft with better communication facilities.

Last week BBC television news carried a leak that the United States was providing military intelligence and communications assistance to Britain.

The report also alleged that Mr. Haig's role of "honest broker" between Britain and Argentina, and caused him to make a firm statement that the United States was only fulfilling bilateral agreements and would not need to say new requests for assistance as long as the present negotiations continued.

Today *Newsweek* carried a report stating that Mr. Haig's advisers were worried that he would not be able to carry out his role in the Falklands crisis, and that his career, adding that the White House was "actively gunning" for him.

It said that Mr. George Shultz, former Treasury Secretary, and Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, former Defence Secretary, were among names being mentioned as possible successors.

Mr. Haig, who is one of the few senior members of the Administration not to be a member of the President's "California Set" of close advisers, had been involved in an almost continuous series of personal feuds since his appointment by President Reagan. At one stage he complained about a "guerrilla campaign" being waged against him.

Junta rules out Red Cross visit

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, April 19

Argentina has refused to allow an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the Falklands, to look after the welfare of civilians.

In a reply to the ICRC's request it said: "This is not necessary for the time being under present circumstances."

Officials said the ICRC would maintain contact with the Argentine authorities. Dr. Paulo Parra, President of the International Association Against Torture, today accused General Galtieri's regime of taking advantage of the crisis to settle scores with political prisoners.

Scottish trade unionists were yesterday alerted to the prospect of an early general election in the wake of the Falklands Islands crisis.

Mr. Michael Foot, the Labour leader, has cancelled his appearance at the Scottish Trade Union Congress, due today, to be in Westminster for political developments in the conflict with Argentina.

But last night, Mrs. Helen Liddell, Secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, told delegates that the leadership of the Labour movement looked to the Scottish TUC as the first big union conference of the year "to give a lead, to take us into preparation for an early general election."

Branding the Social Democrats as a force attempting to divide the Labour vote, she said: "Even as we speak there is a possibility of a general election in not so many months. This is a country at war. Who would have thought it a year ago? It makes my blood run cold."

"Nevertheless, no fascist right-wing dictator will be allowed to dictate to the world how we run our affairs. Time is running out. We must strive to find a diplomatic solution to save the lives of those at risk."

A number of unions are putting together a strongly worded motion on the Falklands Islands issue for emergency debate but the first draft proved unacceptably weak to the left, which sees this crisis as a prize opportunity to attack both the Argentine junta and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet.

Mr. Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday that the invasion of the Falklands had "highlighted the folly of this Government's cuts in traditional naval expenditure" (Donald Macintyre writes).



Occupation strategy: General Mario Menéndez, the Falklands "governor", speaking to his officers.

1,000 troops embark as more civilian ships are called up

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Nearly 1,000 more soldiers including the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, began embarking for the Falkland Islands yesterday as the Ministry of Defence continued to prepare a military expedition.

The paratroopers, together with engineers and artillery, are sailing on the MV Norland from Hull, and on the Eurogrip Ferry (4,190 tons) requisitioned from Townsend-Thornes, which they will begin boarding tomorrow at Southampton.

The Ministry also announced the chartering of the 15,974-ton Anco Charger, now at Portsmouth, from P & O and Ocean Transport and Trading, which own it jointly.

The number of civilian ships in use has risen meanwhile to 28. Fifteen of them had been requisitioned and the others are under charter.

Meanwhile the Royal Navy is turning three of its survey vessels, the 2,733-ton *Hecla* and *Hydra* and the 2,945-ton *Herald* into casualty ferries which in addition will be used to carry wounded troops to the big hospital ships including the requisitioned cruise ship *Uganda*.

The *Hydra* and the *Herald* are now at Portsmouth while

Hecla has already left Gibraltar on its way to join the task force in the South Atlantic.

The paratroopers are the second battalion of the Parachute Regiment to leave for the Falklands. The 3rd Battalion is already on the *Colchester*, a requisitioned cruise liner with the task force.

The presence of paratroops does not, however, necessarily reflect a plan to make a parachute assault on Port Stanley or elsewhere.

The two battalions are part of the Army's 5th Brigade, based on Aldershot, which is designated for military operations outside NATO.

Two more battalions, not so far identified, will take their place in 5th Brigade alongside a regiment of Gurkhas.

The additional troops raise the number of soldiers with the task force to about 2,500, or more than 4,000 when the Royal Marines are included. But the task force would probably need many more men if it is directed to take Port Stanley by force.

The Ministry also confirmed that British Shipbuilders has been asked to accelerate the completion of the *Illustrator*, the second aircraft carrier of the *Invincible* class, which is due to

enter service on the second half of next year. There is, however, understood to be no question of it joining the present task force.

Most of the Argentine fleet was in the area yesterday, although well outside the Maritime Exclusion Zone around the Falklands.

Seven Royal Marines who spent three days in the Falklands eastern interior after the Argentine invasion were expected to arrive at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire today (from David Hewison).

The most left Montonistas yesterday, on a Royal Air Force DC10 accompanied by 22 Montonistas, expressed their invasion of South Georgia and 13 members of the British Antarctic Survey who were taken into custody in the same action.

The Ministry of Defence has pursued a "highly tactical" press strategy, on press interviews with the Marines when the aircraft were expected to arrive at the RAF base.

At the request of the Uruguayan authorities, they made no statements in the press, although several Montonistas were seen on the aircraft, and a small number of British soldiers were seen on the Falklands, buried there, United Jack before surrendering to the Argentine forces.

British imperialism attacked

From David Blom, Vienna, April 19

The East European press has roundly condemned British imperialism and United States power, politics in the Falklands dispute.

Triumph, the Czechoslovak party daily, wrote: "The British 'imperialist' policy is to blame for the Falklands crisis. Britain is ready to go to war to keep one of its last colonies."

The British Conservative Government, its Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher and the bourgeoisie circles she represents are "exploiting the situation subliminally seeking a military solution to the problem, apparently forgetting that Britain has long lost its imperial position."

The United States, it was said, "is using the crisis to pursue its policy of strategic power and also economic interests. It should not be forgotten that the information on its oil resources in the area comes from American sources."

Radio Prague wrote that the Pentagon wanted to use the dispute to build a base on the Falklands. "The base should not only control the access to Antarctica, which is regarded by the Pentagon as vitally significant, but also the access to South Atlantic shipping lanes, especially to Southern Africa, with which the powerful circles in the United States are linked, both by military and economic interests."

The conflict was not a matter of the interests of the Falklands Islands or Argentina, nor even of Great Britain, but first of all it was a matter of United States power interests.

The official Polish newspaper PAP said that the Falklands region "of great significance for the Polish fishing industry, with the annual catch totalling 80,000 tons last year, earning hard currency for the fishing fleet's maintenance."

According to PAP there were 42 Polish fishing vessels in the area when the crisis broke out. This explains the moderate but anxious comment in the leading Polish paper *Trybuna* that the crisis was "extremely important for the Polish fishing industry."

The Polish party daily *Swoboda* which refers to the islands as the *Islas Malvinas* also admits the complexity of the problem and calls for a "peaceful negotiated settlement."

Washington, Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador, has spoken out strongly about the assistance which the Soviet Union is said to be providing to Argentina in the Falklands crisis (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Sir Nicholas, who was clearly trying to impress Congress with the need for a large military force in favour of Britain, said during a television interview: "The United States has a very important role to play in this crisis. It is a very serious matter."

He said that if the Argentine succeeded in retaining the Falkland Islands, the Russians would say that they had helped the Argentine achieve this position and would insist on a *quid pro quo*, "which would be some presence in the South Atlantic."

Sir Nicholas added: "I can just imagine if there was a Soviet base or Soviet military facilities on the Falkland Islands, it's a very serious matter."

Washington, Diplomatic sources in Guyana believe that Venezuela and Guatemala may take military action to resolve territorial claims if Mr. Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, fails in his efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the Falklands crisis.

Argentina's other dispute Shadow of invasion over Beagle Channel isles

The Beagle Channel dispute between Argentina and Chile centres on three small islands — Picton, Lennox and Nueva — which are of no great value in themselves. Their significance is that they are the only islands in the area which are not claimed by Argentina.

Argentina claims that the islands are part of the South Atlantic which is thought to be rich in natural resources, and that ownership will also affect the shipping routes to the Antarctic.

The islands have been disputed by the two countries since the last century. In recent years the issue has been held between Chile and Argentina in an attempt to reach an agreed settlement. But these made little headway and the atmosphere became increasingly tense until it became clear at the end of 1978 that Argentina was about to go to war.

At that point President Carter asked the Pope to intervene in order to prevent a war, which he did. It was agreed that Argentina and Chile would present the cases to him and that he would make recommendations for a settlement.

These recommendations were made in December, 1980, and have not been made public. It is known, however, that like the earlier British award, the Vatican has broadly found in favour of Chile; and Chile has accepted the recommendations in spite of reservations about some aspects of them.

Argentina, however, has not accepted the Vatican's recommendations.

In 1971, Britain was asked to mediate in the dispute under the terms of a treaty signed between Argentina and Chile at the beginning of the century. The Government referred the case to a panel of five judges of the International Court of Justice, and adopted their ruling as its own when it was made in 1977.

This ruling was clearly in favour of Chile, awarding the

three islands to that country. But it was subsequently rejected by Argentina, which began to raise the temperature by making military moves and threatening to take the islands by force.

Argentina's main objection is that by the terms of an agreement signed with Chile in 1893, Chile was to be regarded as a purely Pacific power, and Argentina, a purely Atlantic one, whereas the three islands lie on the Atlantic side of South America.

After the British award had been rejected by Argentina, negotiations were held between Chile and Argentina in an attempt to reach an agreed settlement. But these made little headway and the atmosphere became increasingly tense until it became clear at the end of 1978 that Argentina was about to go to war.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Mugger shot by police

Paris Police shot dead a member of a gang of four youths who attacked two American tourists with knives near the Champs Elysees on Saturday night.

The three-man police patrol, travelling in an unmarked car, arrested the other attackers who had been trying to steal cameras, a wallet and a bag from the tourists.

Vietnam pays human debts

Tokyo. — A large number of Vietnamese workers are being sent to the Soviet Union as "part of Vietnam's repayment of debts" to Moscow, according to the newspaper *Yomiuri*.

Quoting Japanese officials and foreign diplomats, *Yomiuri* said Hanoi had sent about 10,000 workers to the Soviet Union as a means of covering a deficit in its foreign currency reserves. They are working at industrial compounds south of Moscow.

Peace team in Tehran

An Islamic peace team has arrived in Tehran, Iran, the Iranian news agency reported.

The team is headed by President Sakou Toure, of Guinea, and El Habib Chir, the Tunisian Secretary-General of the 43-member Islamic Conference Organization.

Eanes returns to Portugal

Luanda. — President Eanes of Portugal has returned to Lisbon after a four-day visit to Angola that included a two-hour meeting with Mr. Sam Nujoma, the leader of Swapo. He said that Portugal was ready to contribute to a solution for Namibian independence.

Pagoda hit halted

Peking. — Engineers have stopped China's 1,000-year-old counterpart to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the 156ft Tiger Hill Pagoda of Suzhou, from tilting further for the first time since the seventeenth century.

Plugging bus crisis

Tarbes. Hautes Pyrénées. — Two people were killed and 30 injured when a bus carrying Spanish pilgrims from Lourdes collided with a lorry.

Two Australian ministers resign in customs affair

Canberra, April 19. — Australia's health and customs ministers resigned tonight over the Health Minister's failure to declare a miniature television radio-cassette to customs last October.

After five hours of discussions with senior ministers, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, announced he had accepted the resignations of Mr. Michael MacKellar, aged 43, the Minister for Health, and Mr. John Moore, aged 45, who as Business and Consumer Affairs Minister, was responsible for customs.

The affair has caused a new, potentially destructive crisis for Mr. Fraser, who is already beset by economic difficulties including high interest rates, inflation and unemployment, which have caused the popularity of his Government to plummet.

Earlier this month Mr. Fraser beat off a challenge to his leadership of the Liberal Party from Mr. Andrew Peacock, the former Foreign Minister. Some political analysts tonight were predicting that the new crisis could

weaken Mr. Fraser's position and cause a further challenge.

Mr. MacKellar said at the weekend that he failed to declare the \$250 (£142) portable colour television radio-cassette when he bought it into Sydney from Hong Kong. Mr. Moore admitted being told of the matter by a senior member of his ministry and said he decided not to pursue it after reprimanding Mr. MacKellar by telephone. — *Reuters*.



MacKellar: Brought in radio-cassette player.

Indian police use tear gas to break up riot

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, April 19

Police have ordered a ban on meetings and processions in Bangalore and Chitradurga in South India, after rioting and arson over the status of one of the country's many languages.

Two people were killed and many injured, buses and cars were burnt and buildings destroyed in the two cities. Police used bullets, lathis and tear gas to break up rampaging crowds.

The rioting was over the Kannada language, official tongue of the state of Karnataka, spoken by 24 million people.

The disturbances spring from a language commission recommendation that Kannada, as the majority tongue in Karnataka, should have first place in all the state's schools. This upset those speaking Urdu, Tamil and Marathi and they complained of discrimination.

Kannada militants, joined by a leading film star who drew large crowds, clashed with their opponents. Feelings are running high.

Like caste, language in India is always a potential source of trouble. As well as the official language, Hindi, spoken by two fifths of the

people, there are 14 other languages recognized under the constitution. These are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and Sindhi.

There are also 1,652 languages and dialects listed in the census as mother tongues and 10 main scripts.

Although Hindi is the official language it can never be the national language. It is primarily a language of Northern India and there is strong resistance to it in some other parts of the country, for example among speakers of Bengali and Tamil. Central Government ministers visiting the South often make a point of reassuring audiences that Delhi will not impose Hindi.

The only language understood in all parts of India is English. It is recognized as the authoritative judicial and legislative language, and in practice is the main language of Parliament, official business and countrywide communication.

It is, however, a minority tongue spoken by only 12 million of India's 700 million people. Its place in India is endlessly controversial.

حکومت من الاجل

ing to his officers.

British imperialism attacked

From David Blow
Vienna, April 19

The East European press has roundly condemned British imperialism and United States power politics in the Falkland dispute. The Czechoslovak press, daily *Rude Pravo* has been especially critical. "Imperialism, one of the most disgusting products of human civilisation, is to blame for the Falkland crisis. Britain is ready to go to war to defend one of its last colonies."

The British Conservative Prime Minister, Mr. Margaret Thatcher, and the bombastic American representative, Mr. Jeane Kirkpatrick, are sharpening the conflict by stubbornly seeking a military solution to the dispute. Apparently forgetting that Britain has long been a peace-loving nation.

The United States also has its own selfish interests... it has forgotten the peace-loving people of the area come from many sources."

The *Rude Pravo* wrote that the British wanted to build a base on the Falklands. "The British want to only control the Antarctic. Antarctica is guarded by the superpowers... the whole world is struggling to Africa. In other words, the power of the United States is being used by military interests..."

It was not a concern of the United States or Argentina. Great Britain was a major power.

The Polish PAP said the region is a source for the industry and catch turtles each year, worth millions of dollars.

The PAP then said that the British were the cause of the crisis. It explains the British are leaving the Falklands.

The *Rude Pravo* wrote that the British are leaving the Falklands as the problem is a peace movement.

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The Rolls-Royce is not the car it was.

THE SILVER SPIRIT - MORE A DRIVER'S CAR THAN CHARLES ROLLS EVER DREAMED OF.

Once, the privileged position in the Rolls-Royce was the rear passenger seat.

In today's Silver Spirit the driver is king.

He sits in a seat more sumptuous than that created for the maharajas

of the twenties. Hand-stitched, hand-shaped, it is electrically adjustable in eight different directions.

He, quite literally, breathes a different atmosphere from the rest of mankind. The air conditioning in a Silver Spirit is the most sophisticated

there has ever been in a motor car.

It operates separately at knee height and at head height. It dehumidifies the air automatically. It is controlled at a touch. And it can run from the Arctic Circle to the Equator without need of adjustment.

He sees more. Visibility on the 1982 Silver Spirit is thirty per cent better than any other previous Rolls-Royce.

And thanks to the unique Silver Spirit suspension, he drives in a tranquillity that has been compared to the interior of a locked tomb.

But more of that tomorrow.



Fashion: Suzy Menkes on diplomatic dressing

How to live up to Paris — and Napoleon's sister's bed

A Rubik Cube lay defiantly among the porcelain treasures in the elegant Embassy drawing room. In much the same spirit, Lady Fretwell, wife of the new British Ambassador to Paris, bounded up the marble staircase in a racy pin-striped culotte suit, her honey-coated dog padding after heels.

"I can't change just because I'm in Paris," she says, "Although I do have to be a bit careful about what I wear. I realized that for the first time when I slipped out of the front

door wearing a sweater and jeans with my daughter to do a spot of sightseeing, and saw one of the staff looking at me with slight horror".

The embassy front door is a pair of immense lion carved doors on the chic Faubourg St Honoré. It leads into the noble courtyard immortalized by Nancy Mitford and into an absurdly impressive series of state rooms.

Mary Fretwell's main problem with her new home is to reconcile this museum of gilded treasures

with family living. Above all there is The Bed, once the property of Napoleon's sister Pauline Borghese and still a glorious mass of gilded drapes hanging from the claws of a carved Imperial eagle. "You can see that the children have been playing here", she said, smoothing the aging silk covers. "But can you imagine sleeping in this bedroom? You can't see anyone coming into the room from the bed, for a start."

"There are plans to leave this room as a museum piece and carve out a flat for the ambassador, but that comes down to money. For the moment John and I have simply moved upstairs to one of the guest rooms".

The crimson brocade walls, the bottle green marbled fireplace and the sea of gilded furnishings in all the upstairs rooms are a formal contrast to the sunlight dancing on daffodils outside the tall french windows. Did Mary Fretwell find the idea of the Paris embassy, as well as its physical reality, slightly forbidding?

"I must admit that my first thought on hearing I was going to Paris, was 'Oh Lord, I really must spruce myself up'. The first time the importance of the job really struck me was when I was invited to parties given especially for me. You have the feeling that you don't want to be a disappointment. But it is an enormous advantage having a husband who is not a nagger or a worrier and has confidence in me".

Since Mary Fretwell left for Moscow as a young bride in 1959, ("do you know, some of my ski clothes still date from then!") she has had plenty of experience of diplomatic postings including the past two years in Washington.

"But this is the first time as number one, and this place is so very big. In the past I have always had my finger on the pulse of how the job is run. Here there is a large staff, although it has been cut back. I was amazed to discover that one gardener looks after this". She waved her hand across the sweep of spring green lawns, decorated with a well-chewed dog's bone and an embryo-like Henry Moore statue.

Preparing her wardrobe for Paris seemed a less daunting task than rearranging the embassy furnishings. Lady Fretwell is tall (5ft 7in) and slim, although she claims that the delicious meals produced by the embassy cook are already



Lady Fretwell in the gardens of the British Embassy in Paris.

"I shall never forget my first impression of the Embassy. The large, beautiful, honey-coloured house, in its quiet courtyard, seemed a haven of delight. For one thing, no town noises can be heard, only the rustle of leaves, the twittering of birds, an occasional mowing-machine, an owl. The french windows on the garden side fill the rooms with sunshine."

From Nancy Mitford's 'Don't Tell Alfred', published by Penguin.

Photographs by Harry Kerr.

playing havoc with her waistline. Her favourite clothes are sporty, rather than formal, but she did invest in some evening outfits for her new role.

"Of course, one doesn't get a sudden infusion of money into the budget to cope with these postings. But I did get myself a marvellous Zandra Rhodes dress in chiffon with beads that didn't look much on the peg but was perfect on, and that useful length that is neither short or long."

"Length is a problem with evening clothes. Washington is very conservative. It isn't like New York. They wear long dresses in the evening and otherwise I mostly made do with my London clothes. The only thing I had to get was a good summer wardrobe because of the climate."

"On the whole I find the women in Paris pretty carefully dressed, and very well cared for, especially their hair. I find it wonderful having long hair, because at least it always looks presentable. One thing I did

was to go to Alexandre and have my hair put up in a chignon. It was a work of art. Clearly these French women have their hair done once a week and it just stays put."

Lady Fretwell disappeared upstairs to change into her favourite dress — a froth of spotted white tulle trimmed in leaf green and embroidered on the fitted bodice with sprays of lily of the valley. It was, she said a dress made for sweeping down the embassy's splendid staircase.

"I found it in Regamus in Beauchamp Place. In general, I tend to shop a lot in Harrods,

especially in the sales. At the other extreme, I found some things from Stirling Cooper that are fun for day wear. Then with a couple of good suits from Jaeger, I felt I was equipped."

"My only problem is probably reaching a certain age and realising that I mustn't have a fun element in clothes any more. But you do see women of 70 in Paris looking marvellous and not dowdy. I'm sure I shall change my style here. One usually does."

We return to her preoccupation of changing the style of the embassy. What could keep a welcome in the lofty archway

opposite the entrance door? Should Pauline's bed lie in state in one of the vast ground floor reception rooms to let light, air and normal bedroom furniture in up above? How could one best display the superb collection of clocks? And what to do about Queen Victoria's throne room, a dingy and damask relic of empire, its seat bearing the unmistakable imprint of recent occupation.

"Oh dear," said Lady Fretwell with a guilty grin. "I'm sure that my son has been sitting here playing his guitar."

She talked seriously for a moment of the problems for her teenage son and daughter as children of diplomats, leading a nomad existence between boarding school and foreign postings. "But I'm jolly glad we've got them," she said as we looked out at her son, a sturdy figure in a scarlet jersey practising his golf swing straight into the stately turf.

"Sometimes I think that they are what keeps you from being entirely taken over by all this."



Lady Fretwell in the Embassy drawing room.

"The house seemed to be on my side; from the very first moment I set foot in it I was stimulated, interested, amused and ready for anything. When I woke up next morning to find myself in Pauline's bed, opening my eyes on the dark red walls and mahogany furniture, a curious contrast to the light gaiety of the rest of the house, I thought, 'This is the first day, the beginning.'"

From Nancy Mitford's 'Don't Tell Alfred', published by Penguin.

Beauty report

Colours hot and strong

Beauty looks for Spring divide into several distinct and different looks with colour as the keynote.

A breath of fresh air is blowing through the beauty counters with sporty women well served this Spring. Mary Quant's collection of Cruising Colours and Estee Lauder's Great Regatta Colours are both designed to give new clarity and definition to an outdoor face that has been based for the last few seasons on monochrome shades of brown.

In from the Atlantic sweep blues and greens, accented by cheery coral reds. Estee Lauder has included a pearly white in both the eyeshadow and her nail lacquers to counterpoint the strong colours, although Mary Quant makes no such concessions and puts tangerine and turquoise or orange and

shell pink together in eyeshadow duo packs (Peep Eyes £2.45).

Yves Saint Laurent whips up a storm at sea by mixing sunshine yellow with spinnaker sail red and storm cloud violet. New is the deep violet used for mascara (£7), a Pagan Earth and Clay. Arden's other summer line is Les Metaliques, which is filled with cooler metallic colours, especially pewter and platinum shadows.

The calmer waters of a tropical lagoon are also the image of Orlane's Les Anguilles with Bouganvillea and Rose Hibiscus pretty pink-toned lipsticks that look new with turquoise eyes.

The rose-printed dress, the prairie skirt, the froth of petticoats and antique lace are an alternative way of summer dressing. The romantic vein in the English woman, and her fair complexion, will both respond to the quieter cosmetic colourings.

Lauder Prescriptives have introduced some very pretty pinks for Spring, including a lipstick with the homely name of Rhubarb. Also in the English cottage garden are Molton Brown, whose herbaceous border colours pick out the quiet blues and pinks like cornflower and rose.

Pretty pastels, but bright rather than dusty, are the themes of Germaine Monteil's Majolica colours, as pretty as a cabinet of fine porcelain. Harriet Hubbard Ayer's Les Nymphes are also pale but strong, with a preponderance of sky and turquoise blue.

Pearly finishes give a shimmering softness to bright colours in Miss Selfridge's Kiss and Make Up colours. A pretty combination of rose pink and blue is found in Guerlain's Paris in the Spring colours with Kohl bleu pencil (£3.25) and navy mascara (£4.75) to outline the eyes.

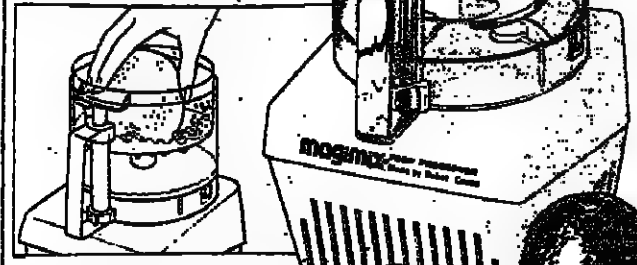
With the emphasis on American fashion and particularly on those turquoise and silver 'Navajo' belts, it is surprising that more beauty houses have not looked for inspiration among the cornfields. Colorfast's American Spring (by Max Factor) has all the right names like Huckleberry, Blue Ridge Mountains and Yellowstone for the duo eye shadow packs (£3.50).

A heatwave is on the horizon according to Ultima II, whose Safari colours are the spiciest of all. Coral is the colour keynote found in lipsticks, blushers and even as eye colour — but cooled down with Forest Green

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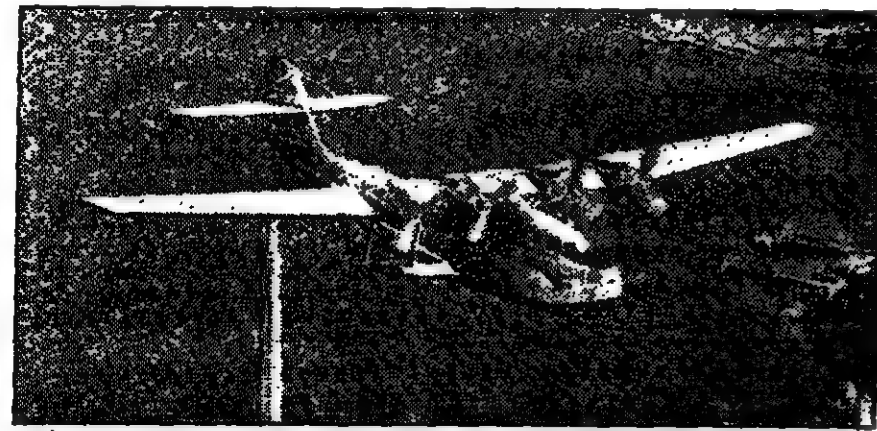


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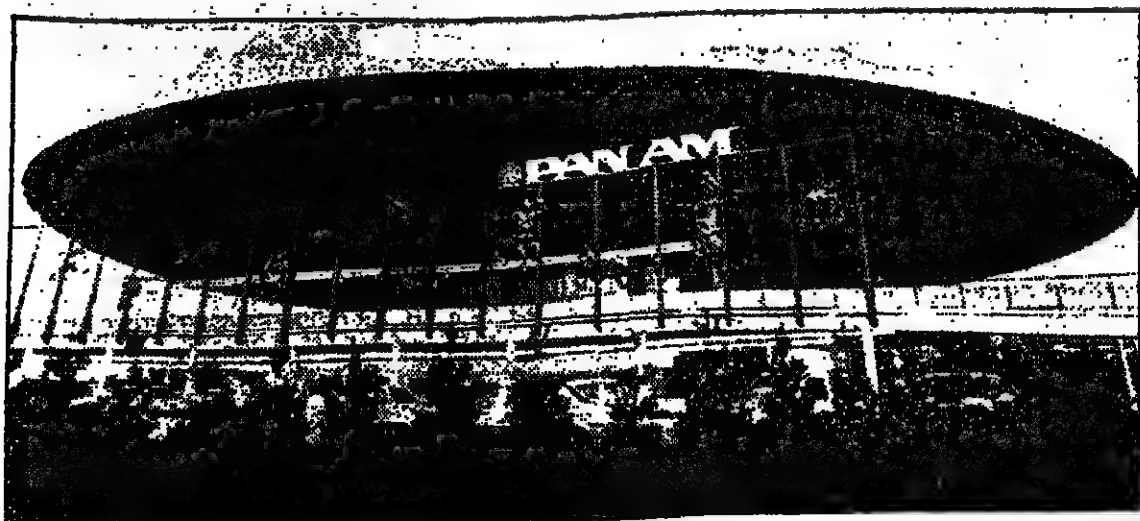
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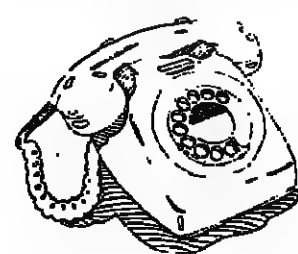
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520
January 2, 1979

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Improvements in the Quality and Relevance of Political Analysis

The Department believes that there are four areas where efforts can and should be made to improve the quality and relevance of political analysis over the coming months:



Secret memo, public anger: one of the documents left behind by the Americans in Iran, and, right, militant students demand the Shah's release for trial in November 1979.

Revealed: America's dithering in the Shah's final days

by Robert Fisk

In late August of 1978, John D. Stempel, the acting political head at the American embassy in Tehran, welcomed ambassador William Sullivan back to Iran with a dog-eared assessment of the Shah's crumbling power.

"While you were away," he wrote, "the place didn't really turn to crap, but it might have looked like it." Stempel could be forgiven his cynicism. All summer, unrest against the Shah's rule had continued throughout Iran. More than 300 people had died in a theatre fire in Abadan, a disaster whose only tangible result was an apparent though discreet split between the religious factions led by Ayatollah Khomeini — still in bitter exile in Paris — and Ayatollah Shariat Madari, down in the holy city of Qom. The Shah's Constitution Day speech had publicly set Iran on the road to liberalization but his shift towards Western-style democracy was being interpreted throughout Iran as a sign of weakness rather than incipient freedom. The Pahlavi dynasty and its kind of rule had lasted less than six months left to run.

The staff of the American embassy had, of course, no way of knowing this. In a confidential letter to the American consul in Isfahan in September 1978, Charles W. Nass, the Tehran embassy's Minister-Counsellor, restated with dogged determination the State Department's Iranian perspectives. "The US," he wrote, "has welcomed the Shah's liberalization policy which aims to develop over time a democratic political system; we have no doubts as to his sincerity about the process. The monarchy is a deeply important institution in Iran and the Shah is, in our view, the individual most suited to lead the Iranian people to a more democratic system."

The confidence was painfully misplaced but in the last months of the Shah's rule, American foreign policy was hopelessly divided over the future of its Middle Eastern ally. Its embassy officials in Tehran, desperately trying to understand the rise of a brutal theocracy in the place of an equally ruthless dictatorship, sent back to Washington their increasingly dramatic assessments of the upheavals and street

fighting that sometimes took place only a few blocks from their compound in Takht-e-Jamshid Street.

It is not usually vouchsafed to ordinary mortals to read such reports until long after the events have become history, but the thousands of hitherto highly secret documents purloined by Iranian students after they seized the embassy in November, 1979, therefore provide an unprecedented insight into the workings of American foreign policy at this critical moment.

Though published by Ayatollah Khomeini's regime for blatantly propagandistic purposes, the papers are a valuable source book for political historians, a brief glimpse through the mirror of modern history at a time when governments would prefer their archives to remain firmly and legally closed.

The Iranian and the United States Governments were to late 1978 clearly beginning to distrust each other. President Carter's human rights campaign being cited against the Shah, and when Stempel met Darius Gousheh, the Iranian Prime Minister's Special Adviser in September 1978, he had to assure him that "the so-called 'American emphasis' on human rights had not, contrary to the opinion of many, advocated chaos instead of public order."

But Ambassador Sullivan was himself disenchanted by the Iranian authorities, astonished by their apparent inability to grasp the gravity of the violence in Tehran and other cities. Foreign Minister Ashraf, he told Washington, "showed little sensitivity to the deaths that had occurred in the clashes earlier that day (September 8) and insisted that no more than 10 had died. He later telephoned me

at home to change that figure to about 100".

On September 10, Sullivan had an audience with the Shah and found him "tired and unhappy, but considerably more spirited than he was a week ago. . . . He persists in saying that he sees the Soviet hand in all the demonstrations and disturbances that have taken place. At the same time, he says that past mistakes must be corrected. . . . he is eager for some public expression of United States support for him, for his regime, and for his programme. . . . he categorically eschewed any suggestion that he will abdicate or flee the current situation."

The American Embassy directed much of its energy towards cultivating Ayatollah Shariat Madari, whom it identified with the more moderate clergy. Khomeini, one American memorandum stated, was "committed to violence and destruction" while Shariat Madari "would doubtless welcome a chance to participate in an electoral process which might not leave the (religious moderates) wholly subservient to Khomeini."

There are countless references in the American documents to threats and harassment by the organized Khomeini fanatics but precious little attempt to find out just who these "fanatics" were supposed to be. Ambassador Sullivan told Washington in September 1978 that the extremist coalition of fanatic Muslims led by Ayatollah Khomeini had "reportedly been penetrated and is assisted by a variety of terrorist, crypto-Communist, and other far left elements."

The Americans should have realized that the Shah's power was inevitably doomed when they learnt how his

Shia Islamic movement dominated by Ayatollah Khomeini is far better organized, enlightened and able to resist communism than its detractors would lead us to believe. It is rooted in the Iranian people more than any Western ideology, including communism.

Sullivan admitted that his embassy had been "labouring with the problem of understanding the breadth and depth of the renaissance Shia religious movement in Iran". The trouble, he said, had been "induced or locked up in Savak prisons. . . . Nevertheless, it has become obvious that Islam is deeply imbedded in the lives of the vast majority of the Iranian people."

It was a painful lesson, but in the aftermath of the revolution the Americans did their best to come to terms with the new regime. Bruce Laingen, the charge d'affaires, who was also to become a hostage within a year, attempted to secure the friendship of Amir Abbas Entezam, the deputy Prime Minister and later the Iranian Ambassador to Scandinavia.

Awarded the codename SD Plot 1, Entezam appears in the embassy archives holding secret discussions for arms supplies with American officials who appear from the documents to be CIA operatives.

Laingen and his colleagues, however, could not maintain relations with Iran once the Shah arrived in New York for medical treatment. The embassy was invaded in November 1979, and the archives came to a halt, leaving for the Iranians not only a wealth of information to feed their conspiratorial theory of history but a few lessons that they might have headed had they read the papers more carefully.

They might, for example, have paused a little longer when they came across a memorandum prepared for the director of the defence security assistance agency in Washington just before the Shah's fall. "Iraq remains the greatest threat to Iran," it said. "Any attack by Iraq would likely be limited, with the oil fields as the target. A decision to mount such an attack would require a weak Iranian military force and some plausible reason to present to world opinion."

A better way to give MPs the chop

It does nothing for the stature of Parliament or for the greater public understanding of our essential, yet defective, democracy when the House of Commons embarks on one of its not infrequent grisly charades. It will do so today when it will debate a motion to guillotine the controversial Employment Bill.

Labour MPs, we are authoritatively informed, are incensed by the Government's decision to cut short argument on the Bill. Mr Michael Foot has already summoned up his righteous indignation to denounce the move as "a great error" which he promises will be bitterly opposed.

So it will be. Superficially. The silly ritual never varies overmuch on these occasions. Only the participating lead characters change, according to who holds office at the time. The major parties unashamedly use each other's leftover texts.

Labour is guaranteed to kick up a shindig. It will be looking anxiously over its collective shoulder at the trade unions, seeking to demonstrate to them that its commitment against Mr Norman Tebbit's measure is heartfelt. Mr John Silkin, the shadow Leader of the House, and Mr Eric Varley, the party's chief employment spokesman, are likely to share the job of insisting that such an iniquitous piece of legislation cannot be curtailed in this cavalier fashion.

The Government will be accused of unseemly haste by refusing to allow the most exacting line-by-line scrutiny of such far-reaching proposals, however time-consuming. The interests of millions of working people and their families are at stake, we shall be assured.

The Government, almost certainly in the shape of Mr John Biffen, the new Leader of the House, and the abominated Mr Tebbit himself, will point out that after some 22 sittings in committee and 52 hours of debate, MPs have only managed to get through four clauses. Therefore, they will declare, there must be a tightly-drawn timetable, both for the remaining committee sessions and for when the Bill returns to the chamber for the whole House to consider. Labour's deliberative go-slow tactics, they will claim, leave them no choice.

They can be expected to trot out, justifiably enough, the many times when the last Labour Government resorted to the guillotine to ensure that its legislation reached the Statute Book. They will doubtless omit to mention the vehement disapproval for such moves advanced by the then Conservative Opposition.

When the guillotining and the shouting is over, the party whips will usher everyone through the voting lobbies. Labour MPs, inevitably beset by the numbers game, will privately sigh with relief to know they will no longer risk those wearisome, turgid and mostly futile unrestricted debates long into the night. Another round in the phoney war will be over.

It is though, an indictment of the outdated and introverted parliamentary system that these antics are permitted to continue. MPs in opposition, regardless of political colour, still pretend that time is a potent weapon. It rarely is. But they will concede nothing. A range of vested interests underpin their obduracy.

When Labour was in power, I wrote to Michael Foot, the then Leader of the House, on behalf of a group of junior ministers — the poor bloody infantry of the Government. We had been stirred up partly by the perpetual strain of those long days and nights, partly by



Mr Tebbit: he will get his guillotine

The idea, or something like it, could still be resurrected. Mr Biffen might at least float the prospect of all-party talks on Parliamentary procedure which are long overdue. He could be assured of Social Democratic Party support for an attack on the existing follies and inadequacies.

Any new move would, of course, be countered by the same old gang of traditionalists, ideobound proceduralists and procrastinators, serving up the same old reasons for protecting the status quo. They would probably be joined, not for the first time, by the House of Lords abolitionist all-or-nothing brigade.

If Mr Biffen is too new and too nervous to face up to that, then I trust that an SDP-Liberal Alliance government would be ready to put it to the test.

Meanwhile, the idle bickering will go on. Mr Tebbit, his votes stacked up, will get his guillotine. I have no wish to help his unfortunate and untimely Bill along. It is at best a smokescreen for the Government and irrelevant to the nation's real industrial relations, which require far more careful and constructive reform than is on offer. I cannot, however, back the political fraud and gamesmanship which outright hostility to the guillotine would entail. I am sure that they will all get along without me very well. Who knows, if enough others follow suit, someone just might get the message.

John Grant

The author is Social Democratic MP for Islington Central and the party's employment spokesman.



Who's to say who's who in the zoo?

What's Greek for a Driver's farewell?

There will be more than usual good cheer today in some of the country's top restaurants. Christopher Driver, the scourge of the kitchens, is leaving the Good Food Guide. He goes with a glowing testimonial from Peter Goldman, director of the Consumers' Association, which publishes the book.

He says Driver made a distinctive and dedicated contribution, carrying on the tradition of literary merit and thorough research established by the Guide's founder, Raymond Postgate.

Driver, whose predilection for acidulated comment upset whole brigades of chefs and restaurateurs, had much in common with Postgate. When they first lunched together, Driver won his predecessor's approbation by spotting an error in the addition of the bill. Thereafter, both being classical scholars, they exchanged notes about their meals in Latin and Greek.

Driver says that after producing 12 editions he has had enough of the feast. The Guide's followers will hope that his successor maintains his campaigns against Muzak and smoking in dining rooms, and that he will inherit that way with words which enabled Driver, for instance, to describe Wolfe's boiler-suited waitresses as "ewe-lambs in Wolfe's clothing".

Most people can tell the difference between an elephant and a kangaroo. Quite a few could even cope with addax, oryx, dorcas and red-fronted gazelle. But where *Hemionus* and *Chrysops* are concerned — they are, in fact, two genera of insects whose larvae eat aphids — it takes the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to sort them out.

The commission, founded in 1895, is in peril. After decades of toiling unsung and barely seen in the shadow of the dinosaur at the Natural History Museum in London, the learned body that judges that most basic of issues, the naming of species, among the 1,100,000 living and fossil animal species, may itself face extinction next year.

The trust that administers the commission has only one regular source of income: the sales of its bulletin and the code it publishes for the guidance of taxonomists. Two grants which have kept it

going during recent years have now expired and it must find £50,000 to £70,000 a year. Its loss would be a tragedy.

The commission describes itself as "the only international tribunal with the authority to regulate nomenclature problems that obscure communications between zoologists all over the world." This means not only mediating in taxonomic disputes concerning known species but also picking an authoritative way through the inevitable confusion arising from the discovery of about 15,000 new species and 2,000 new genera annually.

"The prospect that the commission may cease operations and the confusion in nomenclature that would inevitably follow should be of concern to all zoologists in medical and veterinary work, agriculture, horticulture, ecology, conservation, palaeontology and taxonomy," the February issue of *The Biologist* gave warning.

The commission comprises 26 zoologists and paleontologists from 17 countries, reporting to the Division of Zoology of the International Union of Biological Sciences at its triennial assemblies. In 1905 it formulated its first code of rules for nomenclature; this year, ironically, is to see the publication of its third edition.

As there are more species of beetle alone — about 300,000 — than of flowering plants, it is obvious that no code could hope to accommodate every new animal species; cases where the code and the naming zoologist cannot cope are sufficiently plentiful to have filled 38 volumes of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

Those opinions are often of far more than academic interest; identifying the tropical freshwater fluke that spreads schistosomiasis (or should it be bilharzia?) for example, or the organism that causes malaria, can be a matter of life or death, as, less dramatically,

can be a furious controversy over what to call a species of grain weevil or the bee that is the main pollinator of alfalfa.

Plants and animals, of course, are separate kingdoms: small wonder, then, that different taxonomic philosophies should reign. Compared to zoologists, botanists are a happy-go-lucky lot, with a far less rigid code that anyone can interpret as he wishes, and the first validly published name takes precedence.

Zoologists, inevitably, see this system as a mildly disreputable free-for-all, while botanists speak of "fixing" their colleagues' attempts at "flexible" taxonomy.

At the root of both disciplines, however, is a similar paradox: the thanklessness, as one biologist, whose own name is hardly a household word, put it recently, of work "so fundamental it doesn't get noticed".

Tony Samstag

THE TIMES DIARY

I hope there is no ominous portent in an exchange that Commander Anthony Bateman recalls with some officers of the Armada Republica Argentina at a reception at Admiralty House, Simonstown in the 1960s.

Seeking a conversational gambit, Bateman inquired why none of them, not even the admirals, wore medal ribbons.

The reply, which effectively put an end to the conversation, was: "We have no medals because we fight no wars. You British wear ribbons because you are always fighting." Photographs of the junta show the admirals and generals still in undecorated uniforms, so we must hope they have not now developed a determined lust for battle honours.

The country, urgently needs repairs which Blant thinks likely to cost more than £70,000. They are being neglected because the local congregation is already struggling to raise a similar sum for repairs to the church itself.

Mount Everest, the fully booked high rise facility in the Himalayas, is soon to be the venue for international summit discussions. While Chris Bonington's six-man team are attempting the previously unclimbed east and north-east ridge, a strong Russian team is climbing the south-west face from Nepal, and 16 Americans are tackling the north face.

Carrot cure

The peculiar cookery of the citizens of Salvador, the oldest city and former capital of Brazil, may play an important part in testing the theory that carrots can inhibit cancer.

The Salvadorians cook their *vatapa*, *xinxin* and *moqueca* (fish, chicken and seafood) in red palm

oil, which contains from five to ten times as much carotene as carrots. Their use of the oil, inherited from West African slaves, gives Salvadorians the highest carotene intake in the world. Carotene is a principal source of vitamin A, which Sir Richard Doll has estimated could reduce cancer mortality by a third.

Now a Brazilian epidemiologist working in the department of community medicine in Oxford, Dr Alex Kalache, is to compare the incidence of cancer among Salvadorians with that in nearby Recife, where red palm oil is not a popular cooking medium. If he finds the marked difference he hopes for, red palm oil and a pills will outstrip even vitamin A pills and polar bear liver (the richest source of pre-formed vitamin A) as the health food of the future.

Skates on now

Chris Galer has just sent a birthday card to the drama producer of BBC Radio Wales in Cardiff, not for his birthday but to mark the first full year the manuscript of Galer's radio play *Card* has spent with him. The card reads: Dear Manuscript, Congratulations on reaching one year of age. Where are you? Why don't I hear from you? Are you lost? Yours ever, Dad."

Thin Ice was well liked when originally submitted and read by the producer and a script editor. Some "final" revisions suggested were quickly carried out. Since then there has been no word save a message last December that the revised version had still to be read. Letters have gone unans-



Fix the crisis continues, what about an engagement with BSA?

Don't start casting the clouts just yet though. Mackins warns that until the middle of May we may have to endure by winds, cloudbursts, severe thunderstorms and possibly even snow. This he blames on the second eruption of Mount St. Helens, which he claims, was the cause of the unprecedented April blizzards in the eastern states of America.

When the volcano last exploded, in May 1980, one of the things blown up with it was Mackins's confident prediction of a scorching summer that year. Expect the fine spell to commence, volcanoes permitting, about May 22.

Evolving doors

To commemorate the centenary of Charles Darwin's death, his great grandson, Richard Darwin Keynes, professor of physiology at Cambridge, yesterday unveiled a plaque renaming University College London's biological sciences building the Darwin Building.

University College claims to be the only academic institution in the world which occupies space where Darwin once made his home — other sites having since been demolished or changed to non-academic uses.

Brian Cook bought a block of Cadbury's Dairy Milk whose wrapper carried a voucher with the instruction: "Take this coupon to your retailer, most of whom will exchange it for a free 40g bar."

This leaves him wondering uneasily which part of his retailer is most likely to refuse.

Australian...
From Mr George...
Don Markwell...
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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE SEARCH FOR COMPROMISE

Mr Pym's statement in the Commons yesterday on the Falklands crisis was an unexpected surprise. It was expected in the midst of such critical negotiations. He did little more than reassert British objectives, which are to get Argentine forces withdrawn from the Falklands and British administration restored before negotiations can resume on the long-term future of the islands. Meanwhile, every effort is being made to build up military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Argentina. The fact that Norway has now joined Europe in imposing sanctions is to be welcomed.

There remains, however, a wide gap between the basic simplicity of British objectives and the complexities of achieving them. Britain has sent the fleet to defend two principles. One is the principle that territorial claims should not be pursued by force, and that when they are the gains should not be allowed to stand. In other words, aggression should not pay. The other is the principle of self-determination: the Falklanders, like other peoples, should have a right to decide under which government they wish to live. This right has been violated by Argentina and should be restored. Both these principles have been endorsed by the United Nations, and the first has been specifically reinforced in the case of the Falkland Islands by Resolution 502.

Hence there can be no negotiation on the basic British demand that the Argentine forces withdraw from the islands and the Falklanders be given a chance to express their wishes. But that does not mean that negotiation is impossible, or even that Argentine interests cannot be accommodated. The situation before the invasion included British willingness to negotiate over the sovereignty of the Falklands. Among the ideas put forward was that Argentina would be given nominal sovereignty and would then lease back the islands to Britain for a fixed period, perhaps twenty-five years. To restore the status quo ante is, therefore, not to deny Argentina any chance of achieving the islands but on the contrary to restore British willingness to negotiate on just this point, but certainly not under duress, or the threat of it.

Moreover if negotiations began in peace they could take place against a background which would be somewhat more favourable to Argentina, for there is one aspect of the status quo ante which cannot be restored, and that is the comfortable assumption of the islanders before the invasion that they could remain indefinitely under solely British protection while building up all the benefits of close links with the Argentine mainland. Given the opportunity to express their views they might now be more amenable to compromise arrangements than they were in the past. They cannot be greatly attracted by the prospect of

living on a heavily fortified island at the end of long and vulnerable lines of supply from the United Kingdom. In other words, defending the principle of self-determination may not be wholly incompatible with reaching some form of compromise which would save Argentina's pride while restoring British administration. For instance, it would not be entirely wrong if the freeholder were permitted to fly a flag along with the leaseholder, provided that entitlement was achieved by negotiation and agreement, rather than by aggression.

What remains wholly unacceptable, however, is that the Falklanders should simply be taken over by a government which not only has no legal right to be there but also happens to be a singularly brutal military dictatorship which cannot in any way be trusted to respect their individual rights, as it is already showing by its attempts to "Argentinise" the island. To permit this would be to forfeit any claim to be concerned with human rights or basic justice.

However, if it is not too difficult to envisage just solutions that ought to be acceptable to both sides it remains formidably difficult to chart a course for reaching such solutions in time to avoid a military clash.

That would prejudice not only a peaceful future for the Falklanders but also what ought to be another important British objective: the restoration of good relations with Argentina.

FROM FUNNY MONEY TO A CASH CRISIS

The Treasury Committee of the House of Commons is temperate in its criticism of the Government but telling in its arguments in its latest report on public spending plans. Its call for much greater information from the Government on the volume and output of public spending in the years ahead should be endorsed by the House when the Government's expenditure plans are discussed on Wednesday.

This year has seen the first attempt by the Government to carry out its spending planning for several years ahead in cash terms. In the past, plans were drawn up in "volume" terms, which as the committee concedes did not give a true picture of what most ordinary citizens would think mattered in assessing spending. The measure assessed what was used up as inputs not what was produced as output; and it did not give sufficient warning of changes in costs.

It is this which led to a general acceptance that the old system of controlling public spending had to go; and as a blunt instrument aimed at underlining the way things have changed, planning in cash has many advantages. But there are problems, to which the Government will have to deal with if it is to make its plans for future

years credible. In an ideal world without inflation there would be no need to worry about whether spending was planned in cash terms or in "real" terms, for the two would be identical. It is inflation which makes the distinction important. It is only by having a clear view of what is going to happen to inflation and what the Government can expect to get for its money in future years that the public can assess Government spending plans.

Treasury officials fear that spelling out such information would strengthen the hand of spending departments. The reason for that fear shows the danger of the way in which the latest spending plans have been drawn up. For the assumption about inflation on which the old volume plans were originally converted into cash was more optimistic than the Government is now forecasting. Unless public sector costs are held below those of the rest of the economy, that will present ministers this summer with a choice between cuts in programmes or increases in cash amounts available for next year and beyond.

We thus risk seeing a repeat of the events of last summer, when the Cabinet was deeply split over a call for spending "cuts" which

ended up with spending in the current year £5,000m higher than planned at the time of the 1981 Budget. It is always tempting to assume that public sector costs will be held down; but if that is not achieved, the Government finds that it has allowed yet more time to slip by without reductions in its current spending. If it then tries to bring the total down it can only do so by reducing its investment, something which is bad for us all. The Government says that companies have to plan in cash and it must do the same. But companies also take a view about what activities they expect to be carrying on in the years ahead. If all prices were to double unexpectedly, it would be a very foolish company which halved its operations to hold to cash targets.

The danger of the Government's approach is that by trying to put all the emphasis on cash planning in the public sector it may destroy the credibility of its planning. The sooner the Chancellor can show the House that he has worked through the consequences of his spending plans and that the Government is prepared to take the action needed to meet them the greater will be the credibility of his strategy as a whole.

Low and the Victorian state election suggest that Mr Fraser is not the winner your article elsewhere suggests him to be. Many Australian Liberals have long believed that he never was.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE BRANDIS,
DON MARKWELL,
247 Woodstock Road,
Oxford.
April 10.

Future of local radio

From Mr J. F. Wilkinson
Sir, Let me state quite categorically that there is no truth at all in the rumours referred to by Mr Charles Morris, MP, and Mr Frank White, MP, in their letter printed on April 12, which suggested that the output of BBC local radio stations is to be reduced. Further to this there is no intention to divert their resources or diminish their editorial position in any way. The intention of the Board of Governors is to ensure that the network production centres, the eight regional television stations and the present and future local radio stations in England are supported by a management structure which will properly safeguard their development.

It is with this in mind that they have asked me to undertake a review of the present arrangements. I have already started consultations with staff but it will be some time before these are completed. The chairman of all regional and local radio advisory councils have been informed of this review and will be further discussions with them at the appropriate time and before final decisions are taken. There is no truth at all in the statement that local advisory councils will be disbanded in favour of one overall council.

The BBC welcomes the recognition of the valuable contribution

Australian elections

From Mr George Brandis and Mr Don Markwell
Sir, Your recent coverage of the leadership crisis in the Australian Liberal Party (report, April 10) asserts that the Liberal Party owes its electoral success at the Federal level since 1975 to the leadership of Mr Malcolm Fraser.

We dispute that there is such a causal relationship between Mr Fraser's leadership and the electoral successes of 1975, 1977 and 1980.

Indisputably, the 1975 election was a massive vote of no confidence in the Whitlam Labor Government. It had little, if anything, to do with whoever led the Liberal Party then.

As was widely realised in Australia at the time, the election of 1977 (not, as you report, 1978) was little other than a rerun of that of 1975 — only two years before. The appalling performance of the Whitlam Government was fresh in people's minds. The vote was against Whitlam (who led the Labor Party in the election) rather than for Fraser.

It was not until 1980 that the electoral spotlight fell on Mr Fraser and far from being "a more than convincing victory", the Fraser Government came very close to losing.

The election saw a swing to Labor of 4.2 per cent leaving the Government vulnerable to a swing of less than 1.5 per cent — in Australian terms, exceptionally close to the brink. All of the seats that make up the Government's apparently comfortable majority are held by exceedingly narrow margins. Also, for the first time in 30 years, the anti-Labor parties lost control of the Senate.

Your report concedes that the Liberals, under Fraser, appear now to be heading towards electoral defeat. Opinion polls over many months, the recent by-election in the Federal seat of

Low and the Victorian state election suggest that Mr Fraser is not the winner your article elsewhere suggests him to be. Many Australian Liberals have long believed that he never was.

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The BBC welcomes the recognition of the valuable contribution

Crime prevention programme

From the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Sir, Crime and violence are rightly issues of great concern. But the hue and cry of recent weeks has neither changed the facts about crime nor told us anything new at all about how to deal with it.

Rates of recorded crime are rising in all Western industrialised countries. We know as well that the USSR and even China are facing similar problems. We know that crime is a complex problem with its roots deep in society. We know the breakdown of urban communities and the decaying of thousands of people into massive, bleak housing estates have played their part.

More recently unemployment has to have had its effect, especially on the young and on children growing up in families where the parents have no work and no hope of work. The rapid advance of new technology, desirable though it may be, is likely increasingly to add to pressures of the social upheaval we are experiencing. The growth of more technological policing has created a gap between the police and the people.

Thus those who claim these problems will be solved by capital punishment, corporal punishment, longer and harder prison sentences and more prison building are deluding themselves and misleading the public. We have more convicted prisoners per head of population than any other European country. Our prisons are filled to bursting, though not with violent offenders or even burglars. Over half of those imprisoned on any one day are locked up for non-violent offences other than burglary.

As Lord Lane said in the House of Lords on March 24 "... neither police nor courts nor prison can solve the problem of the rising crime rate. By the time that the criminal falls into the hands of the police, and more particularly by the time that he reaches court, it is too late."

Instead of allowing the debate to be dominated by calls for harsher penalties and longer sentences the Government should initiate a programme of crime prevention. They should look in detail at what has been achieved so far, they should build on the work already done by various organisations, including the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, in reducing vandalism, crime and fear of crime on poorly designed and neglected housing estates.

The present position should be changed so that the Home Office is enabled directly to fund a wide range of crime prevention schemes. Finally the Home Secretary should look again at his decision to impose a standstill on new funding for community run schemes that keep offenders out of further trouble.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. G. CHRISTOPHER,
Chairman,
CHARLES IRVING,
Vice-Chairman,
NACRO,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.

Computer generation

From Simon G. Bull

Sir, Much of the content of Henry Fairlie's report (April 14) will come as no surprise to many parents in this country who are now confronted with an older problem in a new form.

Most precisely, mention of the first television generation recalls the domestic discord that often arose when children wished to view one programme on television whilst their parents wished to view another. For those who did not solve this problem by purchasing additional television sets a new dimension has been added — the home computer.

The sibling rivalry to which Henry Fairlie refers is now seen in the form of competition between the elder children who wish to use the television set to display interminable programmes that they have devised for the home computer — often, ostensibly, in connection with their school work — and the younger generation who wish to use the same equipment to play computerised games of which some, at least, seem to have educational value.

Even if the teachers quoted are right, the pressure on the siblings gap can never be less than nine months.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON G. BULL,
Oakwood,
37 Island Road,
Sturry,
Canterbury,
Kent.
April 14.

Worker democracy

From Mr W. J. Allenby
Sir, Professor R. Beresford Dew's letter (April 15) on employee democracy contains a major error: what employees of German companies have the right to elect by secret ballot is half the supervisory board, not the board of management. In the case of most companies the supervisory board meets once or twice a year.

It is also wrong to believe that all British companies lag behind their German counterparts in employee information and participation. I can assure your readers that we follow exactly the same procedures in our British and German companies and we are by no means unique in this respect.

More fundamentally, Professor Dew appears to over-estimate the extent to which a procedural framework, imposed by law, can change the deep-seated attitudes bred by generations of distrust and prejudice.

Finally, I would like to remind Professor Dew that what he is asking for, and no more, is contained in the fourth alternative of the latest EEC draft fifth directive which shows signs of being adopted in the near future. Perhaps Professor Dew can use his influence to help to ensure that some relatively minor amendments are carried before this happens.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ALLENBY,
Joint Managing Director,
Lansing Bagnall Ltd,
Kingsclere Road,
Basingstoke.
April 15.

Mental Health Bill

From Lady Bingley and others

Sir, In 1975, following the MIND publication, *A Human Comedy* if you wrote: "The report is not only a landmark in its case that the Mental Health Act, 1959, shows too many traces of paternalism of an earlier day". The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill marks the end of an important era in MIND's history — we are delighted to see that some two thirds of its recommendations are based on our original proposals. At the same time, we have brought a series of successful cases before the European Court of Human Rights, which have resulted in substantial amendments to the Bill.

We agree with your leader (March 31) that the Bill will remove much of the paternalism in the existing statute, but do not agree with some of its conclusions. The leader would ap-

UN influence in a Falklands solution

From Mr Donald Hall

Sir, As one of those remaining who worked on the foundations of the United Nations, may I urge agreement to a peace force if such is proposed. Too often we have by our indifference undermined the influence of a body created for the very purpose of resolving such crises as the present one.

The United Nations through the Security Council, as well as the EEC and members of the Commonwealth, have recognised the justice of our cause, and the absolute need to assert that aggression must not pay. The United States' good offices, somewhat ungraciously regarded, have so far preserved peace.

But while acknowledging all this we must be honest with ourselves, we, no less than the Argentines, are fearful of losing face — even, it seems, prepared to let loose a war as futile as any in history, and of which no sane mind could be foreseen, for the sake of it.

A United Nations peace force enables both parties to withdraw from the lethal position in which they have placed themselves, and possibly the rest of the world. Our assertion of sovereignty could be in no way prejudiced; indeed, with the support we have already received, it would tend to be confirmed. At all events it would give pause while the future of the Falklands is calmly deliberated. Moreover, it would protect the sovereignty of the United Nations which is so important for the peace of the world.

We might also remember, in connection with our not very shining sovereignty over those islands, that the sovereignty of nations is the prime cause of war and consequent misery: it has nothing to do with patriotism, which is love of one's country.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD HALL,
Wilcote Grange,
Finstock,
Oxfordshire.
April 17.

From Professor E. A. Wortley, O.C.
Sir, Mr William Douglas-Home made a most important point, in your issue of April 8, with regard to the protection of civilians from military operations.

The Argentine and the United Kingdom have accepted the Geneva Convention "Red Cross" Convention of 1949, article 4 of which defines protected persons as "those who, at a given moment and in any manner whatsoever, find themselves, in the case of a conflict, under the power of the hands of a party to the conflict or occupying power of which they are not nationals". By article 14 these Powers may "establish in their own territory and, if the need arises in occupied areas, in safety zones and localities... to protect the effects of war, of wounded, sick and aged persons, children under 15, expectant mothers and mothers of children over 7".

Article 17 provides for "local agreements for the removal from besieged or encircled areas of wounded, sick, infirm and aged persons, children and maternity cases... ministers of all religions, medical personnel etc".

The 1977 Protocol to the Red Cross Convention is not yet binding as a treaty on the UK or the Argentine, but it does represent a long tradition of international law based on Christian charity when, in article 57(1), it declares: "In the conduct

of military operations, constant care shall be taken to spare the civilian population, civilians and civilian objects".

Those conducting military operations would be lawfully following this tradition, whether acting unilaterally, or by agreement, if they granted immediate safe conducts and provided safety zones for all civilians who wished to leave areas where battle was likely to occur. Such exercise of lawful military discretion would help and not hinder any ultimate legal settlement, and might save many innocent lives.

Yours faithfully,
E. A. WORTLEY,
24 Cavendish Lane,
Wimborne,
Dorset.
April 14.

From the General Secretary of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association

Sir, The article by John Chartres about the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (April 8) was both informative and timely. Not many people know of the existence of this Government-owned fleet, manned by Merchant Navy personnel, whose purpose is to support the Royal Navy in whatever task is assigned to it.

The present emergency has shown that the RFA has already been reduced below a level at which it can fully support the Royal Navy, and various merchant ships have had to be pressed into service with, in some cases, the possibility that foreign operators will move into the commercial slots which had been nurtured by the owners and the crews of these ships.

The British-registered merchant fleet is declining and in the future Britain may be faced with the humiliating experience of using ships whose loyalties are to a foreign power, to support the Royal Navy.

Even bareboat chartering of such ships with a view to manning them with British crews may be denied us. The number of recruits in the Merchant Navy has declined dramatically in the last two years — to such an extent that on present predictions there will not be enough qualified seafarers in only a few years' time to man the diminished fleet of merchant vessels.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC NEVIN,
General Secretary,
The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association,
Oceanair House,
750-760, High Road,
Leightonstone, E11.
April 14.

From Dr Alan Sanderson

Sir, The sight of the venerable-looking Mr Anderson telling the world the private conversation of President Reagan and Mr Haig (report, April 17) troubled me deeply. What is the distinction between publicising stolen tapes and receiving stolen goods?

Journalists today are in a position of influence equal to that of the Church in the Middle Ages. Newspapers and television are the modern Bibles. People model their behaviour on what they read and see.

Do journalists realise their awesome responsibility?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SANDERSON,
2 Caroline Close, W2.
April 17.

Doctor at large

From Dr A.C. Chamier

Sir, It seems to me that discussion about the length of time taken for postgraduate students to complete their PhD theses is taken in present circumstances, my experiences lead me to believe that it is unprofitable to embark upon postgraduate studies at all. My husband gave up a career in diplomacy in 1971 so that I could remain, once our children were at school, for a career in scientific research, preferably as a university don.

I spent two years studying for the relevant A levels; three years to obtain a first-class degree in medicine; three years to complete a PhD thesis on a physiological aspect of biodegradation — an area of research within the scope of my equipment to play computerised games of which some, at least, seem to have educational value.

Even if the teachers quoted are right, the pressure on the siblings gap can never be less than nine months.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON G. BULL,
Oakwood,
37 Island Road,
Sturry,
Canterbury,
Kent.
April 14.

Question: mark over orchestral visit

From Mr John McCabe

Sir, The arguments about the proposed visit to London in 1983 of the Los Angeles Philharmonic to give us a Brahms cycle have, so far as I know, not mentioned the complete absence of American music from the programmes, a lack which is implicit in the basic scheme.

It seems to me quite extraordinary for an American orchestra to consider giving a series of concerts in Britain without enabling us to hear a note of American music. There are, after all, plenty of first-rate pieces which have already made a fine impression over here and which deserve more frequent exposure as part of the symphonic repertoire, especially in performances by such major artists, who could present the works to their best advantage.

To miss such an opportunity would be to deprive audiences of an excellent chance of widening their musical horizons, and to deprive American composers of increased access to audiences which have already (though perhaps too infrequently) been able to enjoy their works.

It would also continue the current pernicious process of reducing the standard repertoire to an ever-diminishing number of works which, through over-exposure, might be in grave danger of losing their essential meaning.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MCCABE,
49 Bourne Avenue,
Southall,
Middlesex.
April 15.

From Miss Susan M. Alcock

Sir, Bryan Appleyard's article (April 12) and Robert Spencer's letter (April 14) oblige me to make an attempt to spell out the ISM view of Mr Jasper Parrott's present campaign.

First of all let us have the situation in perspective. Why is Mr Parrott creating such a fuss about the Los Angeles Philharmonic and not Mr Andreas Schiff? Mr Appleyard failed to report the main point which I made to him last week — namely that Jasper Parrott has a strong commercial interest in this matter.

Apparently we, the Visiting Orchestras' Consultative Association and others are accused of depriving the British public of the right to hear distinguished foreign artists. The reverse is true. We all want to enjoy the best from abroad. That is why a generous scheme has evolved over at least 40 years to allow foreign artists to come here with the minimum of restriction. Other countries also operate controls. It is ridiculous to regard the rules, of which Mr Parrott is so impatient, as an affront to freedom. To preserve freedom some controls have to exist to prevent distortion and unfairness.

Are all these careful guidelines to be thrown over to suit Mr Parrott's commercial interest?

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN M. ALCOCK, General Secretary,
Incorporated Society of Musicians,
10 Stratford Place, W1.
April 15.

Tibetan deforestation

From Mr Paul Ingram

Sir, I read with interest an item (April 7) which dealt with the widespread deforestation projects on the Indian side of the Himalayas, with consequent human suffering and severe ecological damage to the areas involved.

Such deforestation is not, alas, confined to one side of the Himalayas. The Chinese too are rapidly deforesting huge areas of the old Tibet (the provinces of Kham and Amdo) which they annexed in their invasion of 1950. This was observed by the second Betanong delegation sent by the Dalai Lama's government in exile at the invitation of the Chinese government. (See *Tibet News Review*, Winter 1980/81). In these areas some 65,000 people are employed in intensive lumbering. Whole hillsides have been devastated and day and night rivers are full of logs being sent down river to China.

In these regions there was once a flourishing wildlife, bears, wolves, wild geese and ducks, black-necked cranes and fish-eagles, together with great herds of deer and gazelles. They have all been practically exterminated.

Man's inhumanity to man and to nature seems without limit.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL INGRAM, Secretary,
Scientific Buddhist Association,
30 Hollingbourne Gardens, W13.

Ominous developments

From Mr Richard Wilson

Sir, In spite of his pretended innocence (feature, April 14) Mr Heseltine knows that it is easier for district councils to tempt developers than the rising middle class to cover Britain's green fields with bricks and concrete than to settle down to deal with the problem of redeveloping our cities and derelict land.

He should legislate to limit the massive powers local authorities now have to choose the easy option. But would the regenerated cities vote Tory, and would his Tory district councillors still love him?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILSON,
32 Fentiman Road, SW8.
April 14.

Surgeon's hungry allies

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, At the 1951 Festival of Britain Exhibition there was shown a Temperance Prognosticator (letter, April 17) from the 1851 Great Exhibition. Each of 12 leeches (I think that was the number) ascended a separate glass tube from the wet sandy bottom of a large glass jar.

The impact of 12 leeches arriving simultaneously at the top caused a small bell to ring, presumably audible in the cab before the storm. Was it a joke, I wonder?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALMENT,
Winston House,
Northampton.
April 17.

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Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALMENT,
Winston House,
Northampton.
April 17.

theory, and led to the publication of *Modern English* in 1962 and *The History of English* in 1967. The latter, an inspired work of deep learning, was hailed as a masterpiece of scholarship. It was the first of a series of books on the history of the English language, which have since become essential reading for all students of the subject.

She was active in the study of her own language, and was a member of the Linguistic Society of London. She was also a member of the Society for the Study of English Language, and the Society for the Study of English Literature. She was a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars, and was a member of the Council of the Society for the Study of English Language.

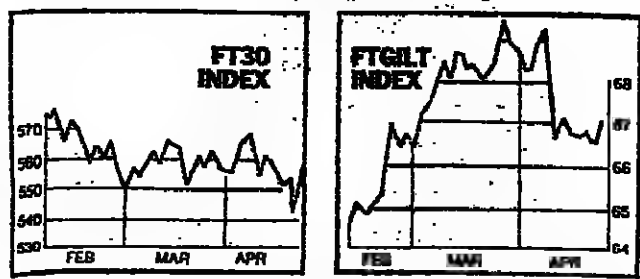
For thoughts had about turned to the possibility of a new venture, and she had been thinking of a number of projects. She was particularly interested in the study of the history of the English language, and was a member of the Linguistic Society of London. She was also a member of the Society for the Study of English Language, and the Society for the Study of English Literature.

F MORRIS

BUSINESS NEWS

سوق الأوراق المالية

Rally by markets



The improved prospects for peace in the Falklands crisis made a rapid impact in the Stock Market where the FT 100 index rallied 7.4 to 558.1 after the 9.6 fall last week. Dealers are now expecting a rise in the index of up to 30 points if the crisis is resolved. Meanwhile trade in the FT 30 index remains thin but last week's 0.26 fall in the FT 100 index was reversed yesterday with a 0.56 rise to 67.06.

Hold-up on Clore assets

Jersey courts have given until the end of the week for parties with interests in the late Sir Charles Clore's estate to agree on whether Stype Investments should transfer £20m to the Official Solicitor in England. Stype wants to transfer the money after a Court of Appeal judgment that the Inland Revenue could proceed against it for £15m capital transfer tax arising from the sale of Sir Charles' Herefordshire property. The company's £28m assets in England could be seized to pay the CIT liability if it does not comply with the appeal court ruling.

ACC vote on Gill payoff

Voting shareholders of Associated Communications Corporation met today to decide whether Mr Jack Gill, the dismissed managing director, should get a record £560,000 golden handshake and be able to buy his house for £100,000 below market value. Five ACC directors, including Lord Grade, the former chairman, have promised Mr Gill to cast their 43.5 per cent in his favour.

Swing into deficit

The capital account of industrial and commercial companies swung into deficit in the final quarter of 1981 as the pace of destocking slowed. Companies had a borrowing requirement of £5,600m in the second half of 1981, after repaying £1,200m in the first half. This was more than covered by £3,900m from the banks and £4,800m from elsewhere.

Business Editor, page 19

£20m drift

Profits of Britain's biggest shipping consortium, Overseas Containers Limited, fell from £46m to £26m last year. Sir Ronald Swayne, chairman, blamed competition, the recession, and industrial action by seamen and dockers.

Business Editor, page 19

MARKET SUMMARY

Peace hopes lift shares

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT index 558.1 up 7.4
FT 100 67.06 up 0.56
FT All share 317.21 up 2.75
Bargains 13,979

Hopes for a peaceful settlement in the Falklands crisis brought a late boost to the Stock Market where after drifting down most of the day the FT index closed up 7.4 at 558.1.

Trade was quiet throughout the day with little selling but with the apparent breakthrough in the diplomatic situation leading shares to rise quickly marked up, led by GEC 22p better at 619p. Glaxo 13p ahead at 603p, and BP gaining 10p to 296p.

Companies with Argentine interests quickly responded with BAT at 415p up 10p, and Lloyds Bank gaining 5p after hours to 420p.

Lonsdale Universal recorded the biggest gain of the day with a 25p jump to 67p after a dawn raid by brokers Carr-Saunders led by GEC 22p better at 619p. Carr-Saunders had a 11.22 per cent stake. Menzies hardened 1p to 236p.

Trade in the gilt market remained thin, but after losing some of Friday's gains the hopes for peace left long dates with gains of 2 1/2 and shorts up to 2 1/2 better.

COMMODITIES

● The world's tin producers and in consumers met separately in London yesterday as a prelude to the opening of the International Tin Council's four-day meeting today when the question of export controls may be re-examined.

Members spent most of March discussing whether export controls should be imposed to bolster prices. The producers were all in favour of such a move, but consumers — led by the United States — were against. Another matter under discussion will be the new five-year pact, due to come into force in July. The financial position of the council's buffer stock is also likely to be closely examined.

The London tin market, after jumping £100 in the first few days following the news, settled down in very narrow trading at between £7,350 and £7,380 a metric ton for three months delivery. The buffer manager was said to have been "busy" buying in both London and Penang, Malaysia.

TODAY

Mr Edward Heath addresses American Chamber of Commerce lunch, London.
Company meetings. Interim. Wm. Low. Fairs. Bodycote Interiors. Bousfield. First Charlotte Assets Trust. Green's Economist. Estates Duties Investment Trust. Hamilton Oil Great Britain. Hallam Sleigh and Chester. Lamont. John Menzies. Lord Perry Motors. Smiths Industries. Tisbury Group. United Parcels. Webster Group. Welbeck Investments.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones index 7,135.21 up 5.52.
Hong Kong: Hang Seng index 1,180.65 down 1.83.

CURRENCIES

● Optimism over prospects for a Falklands settlement boosted the pound and depressed dollar in late trading. The dollar weakened on easier dollar interest rates.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING \$1.7680 up 50 points.
Index 80.9 down 0.4.
DM 4.2725.
Fr 11.1000.
Yen 434.50.

DOLLAR Index 115.8 down 0.4.
DM 2.4153 down 62 pts.

GOLD \$348.00 down \$14.50.

MONEY MARKETS

● The Bank provided a total of £402m assistance, rather less than the estimated shortage of £520m, at unchanged rates. Very short rates were firmer, while period rates remained steady.

Domestic rates: Base rates 13%. A month interbank 14-15%. Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 7 1/2-15 1/2. 3 month DM 9 1/2-8 1/2. 3 month Fr 2 1/2-2 1/2.

GEC wins £250m order for S Africa

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

GEC has won a contract worth more than £250m to supply turbine generators for a new power station in South Africa.

The order continues the run of major export success by the British heavy electrical engineering industry. Within the past month, GEC, Northern Engineering Industries and Babcock and Wilcox have won about £600m worth of business to supply equipment for power stations in India and Taiwan.

The South African contract, announced yesterday, includes six 600MW generators for a coal-fired power station to be built in the south-eastern Transvaal between Volksrust and Amersfoort.

GEC expects at least 80 per cent of the work — more than £200m worth of business — to be done at its plants in Britain. The remainder of the equipment will be made locally by GEC South Africa and Barlow Rand.

The work, which will begin in 1984, will secure hundreds of jobs at the Rugby base of GEC Turbine Generators for the remainder of this decade.

Altogether more than 8,000 people are expected to work on the project.

Mr Bob Davidson, managing director, said last night that this brought the firm's

order book for heavy generators to £1,600m. His company now has 11.5 per cent of the world market, just behind the leader, Mitsubishi of Japan, with 12 per cent.

In the open South African market GEC has won half of all generator orders since 1975. The company is also constructing six 600MW units for the Duvha power station and another six for the Tutuka station.

The first three Duvha generators are already operating successfully, and GEC attributes the new contract — won against eight foreign competitors — to the happy experience of the South African Electricity Supply Commission (Eskom) with those units.

In design, the new generators will be very similar to the standard modern unit which GEC has been building since the early 1970s. Although the technology may not have changed much, Mr Davidson said, the company's heavy investment in manufacturing equipment had significantly reduced their construction costs.

Finance for the South African project announced yesterday was arranged by Hill Samuel. A buyer credit from the Export Credits Guarantee Department will support 85 per cent of the price of the order.

Hill Samuel has arranged a Eurodollar loan to cover the South African part of the contract.

Government data on spending criticized

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The Government should give Parliament much more information on its public spending plans in future, according to the Commons Treasury Committee.

In a report on Government spending the committee says that information on the cost, relative price and the output of public spending should be included in future White Papers. It says this information is needed in addition to the figures for cash planning which the Treasury published in this year's White Paper.

Mr Edward Du Cann, the committee chairman, said that Parliament was being asked to approve figures "without knowing what the money is being spent on".

The committee says that volume plans need not challenge the primacy of cash planning but are necessary in assessing spending measures.

The report, which is conciliatory in tone, draws attention to a number of pledges by Treasury officials and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to try to give more information on public spending.

Menzies in dawn raid on Lonsdale Universal

By Gareth David

John Menzies (Holdings), the wholesale and retail newsagent and bookseller, is making a £5.64m bid for Lonsdale Universal, a wholly owned dealing subsidiary of John Carrington & Co. has made a £175,000 offer for Speedwell Gear Case which it intends to use as a cash shell after selling Speedwell's engineering interests for £150,000 to Astra Industrial Group. Acquisition news from Speedwell is expected soon.

The stake was acquired in a dawn raid at 60p a share by brokers Carr-Saunders, and the group has offered to acquire the remainder of the equity at 60p a share.

Mr John Menzies, chairman, said that Lonsdale was an attractive company, engaged in a number of activities that fit in with those of Menzies.

In deciding the price of the ordinary offer, Menzies has taken into account the past performance of Lonsdale including the expected recovery in profits indicated by

the chairman in his annual statement.

Besides the offer for the ordinary shares, Menzies is offering 60p for each 4.9 per cent first cumulative preference share of £1, and 55p for every 4.9 per cent second cumulative preference share.

The offer represents a premium of 27.9 per cent over Lonsdale's net tangible assets and a multiple of 37.9 times the earnings attributable to each Lonsdale ordinary share for the year to September 1981.

Lonsdale shares jumped 34p to 76p. Menzies shares were 1p firmer at 236p.

Late yesterday Mr Robert Maxwell disclosed that his British Printing and Communications Corporation had acquired a 6.51 per cent stake in Lonsdale and would use that to support the Lonsdale board if it decided to reject the Menzies bid.

Dr Spinkell said the administration saw intervention as especially inappropriate at a time when the world's economic policies were sharply divided with some countries pursuing policies of low inflation and others of high inflation, such as France, were implementing inflationary policies.

Dr Spinkell, a member of the American preparatory group for the Versailles summit in June, said he was in private to administration thinking on exchange rates and other economic issues likely to arise.

The United States is interested in doing a "better job" of co-ordinating economic policies "among western nations and Japan, and the US".

Rising hopes for a settlement of the Falklands crisis gave the pound a fillip in late trading. It jumped by nearly 50 points to over \$1.77 at one point before ending the day 50 points up at \$1.7660. The news depressed gold, which had been drifting lower for most of the day, mainly on profit-taking. It closed in London \$14.50 down at \$348 and ounce.

Mr Ian MacGregor, BSC chairman, told the committee last year that the loss of the American business would cut BSC sales by up to 500,000 tonnes a year and the corporation would lose 10 per cent of its business. He also hinted that more jobs would be lost.

The report, which recognizes the new uncertainties facing the corporation in its bid to break even next year, stresses BSC's vulnerability to action in the United States against European steel products.

It is also concerned about the possibility that American restrictions might be applied to steel from non-EEC countries which, in turn, could unload surplus production onto the European market.

"This is one example of a problem which extends to other industries, and illuminates the risk to the United Kingdom and the EEC of restrictive United States trade policies," the report says.

The committee wants the Government to raise the issue again with the European Commission, and to press for contingency plans.

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Mr Peter Walker opening London's new futures market in soyabean oil yesterday

£48m lift-off for gold

By Sally White

Trading in the two new futures markets that opened in London yesterday — gold and soyabean oil — started well. Both reported a good volume of activity.

The London gold futures market had done 2,338 lots, of 100 each, by the close of trade. The value of that is about £48m. Most activity centred on the August position, where the price fell from an early high of £211.75 to close at around £204.75 an ounce on hopes of a peaceful settlement in the Falklands.

Mr Keith Smith, of Mocatta & Goldsmid, chairman of the new market, said that once it is fully established, probably by the autumn, daily volume could be 5,000 contracts. The market, which was opened by Sir Christopher Leaver, the Lord Mayor of London, is unique in offering futures trading in bullion in sterling.

Those members of the London Gold Futures Market who may trade on the floor range from London merchant banks to leading metal groups.

London hopes to attract business from the New York and Zurich markets and to gain a larger market share of the bullion business done by the leading producers.

The Soyabean Oil Market was opened by Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The first day's trading saw turnover of 225 lots, of which 52 lots were crossed. Good trade interest was seen although sellers predominated. Most trade was in the August position, where the price came down about \$2 to \$489 a tonne.

Mr Tony Shepherd, of Czarnikow, chairman of the London Vegetable Oil Terminal Market Association, said that business was expected to average 100 lots a day. The last time a vegetable oil market was set up, in the 1970s, lack of trade support caused it to collapse. But this time the trade has been fully canvassed and the dollar contract is designed to fulfill its requirements.

Business in Britain's shops recovered smartly in March after a fall in February, according to the Department of Trade. This was a much better performance than most observers had predicted.

Retail sales rose by 0.8 per cent in March on a seasonally adjusted basis, match the level reached in January. Business was up 1.2 per cent on a year earlier.

The figures had been expected to show a further fall as lower pay settlements and rising unemployment squeezed real incomes. But intense high street competition, including spring sales, pre-Budget buying, and the prospective cut in mortgage rates may have encouraged consumers to dip into savings.

It is too early to say whether the March figures, which may be revised later, signal any upturn in consumer spending. Most forecasters, including the Treasury, account the increase to remain sluggish this year.

Retail sales in the first three months of 1982 were unchanged from the same period in 1981, but about 1 per cent above their level in the previous three months.

The value of retail sales in March, not seasonally adjusted, was 9 per cent higher than a year earlier. Taking into account the increase in sales over the period, prices in the shops have risen by roughly 8 per cent in the year, well below the general rate of inflation of 11 per cent.

Retailers have kept up sales by cutting profit margins — one explanation for why the trade has been sounding gloomier than the official figures would suggest.

RETAIL SALES
Figures for the volume of retail sales released by the Department of Trade:

	Index by volume (1971=100)	Index by value (1971=100)
1980 1st Qtr	104.7	+20
2nd Qtr	104.1	+12
3rd Qtr	104.2	+13
4th Qtr	104.2	+9
1981 1st Qtr	104.7	+8
2nd Qtr	104.7	+8
3rd Qtr	105.5	+8
4th Qtr	105.4	+8
1982 1st Qtr	107.0 (provisional)	+8 (provisional)
1981 1st Qtr	105.1	+10
2nd Qtr	105.7	+8
3rd Qtr	106.1	+8
4th Qtr	107.0	+8
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Source: Department of Trade

Call for European action on US steel restrictions

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The Government has been urged by an all-party select committee to initiate European action to counter United States curbs on steel imports.

In a report on problems facing the British Steel corporation published yesterday, the Industry and Trade Committee also called on the Government to conduct another review of energy prices, particularly for heavy industry.

The report, which recognizes the new uncertainties facing the corporation in its bid to break even next year, stresses BSC's vulnerability to action in the United States against European steel products.

It is also concerned about the possibility that American restrictions might be applied to steel from non-EEC countries which, in turn, could unload surplus production onto the European market.

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A touch of spring in retail sales

By Frances Williams

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1982 1st Qtr	107.1 (provisional)	+8 (provisional)

Source: Department of Trade

Telephone firms court Telecom

British telephone manufacturers are refusing to supply handsets for sale in private shops, because they do not want to upset their marketing arrangements with British Telecom.

This means that the shops are full of imported phones, whose use in this country is still technically illegal — even the limited range of British phones which the manufacturers have been allowed to sell privately since November are available only through the public corporation.

British Telecom and its four main suppliers (GEC, Plessey, STC, and TMC) deny any conspiracy to thwart the Government's programme to dismantle the corporation's monopoly, by keeping their products off the private market. But all the companies have decided not to offend the corporation, by far their biggest customer, by supplying the private competition.

Makers miss out, page 19

Stag Furniture Holdings plc

	1981 £'000	1980 £'000
Turnover	27,913	27,853
Pre-tax Profits	1,344	1,468
Earnings per Ordinary Share	10.4p	12.0p
Total Net Dividend per Ordinary Share	5.0p	5.0p

Mr P. V. Radford, Chairman, says:—

- Although 1981 was a very difficult year for the furniture industry, turnover was maintained and profits before tax fell by only 8 1/2%.
- The Group remains in a strong financial position with cash at £1.86m.
- Trading remains difficult but sales and profits for the first 2 months of 1982 compare favourably with those in the corresponding period of



Standard Chartered

Bank PLC



1980

Comments by the Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Barber

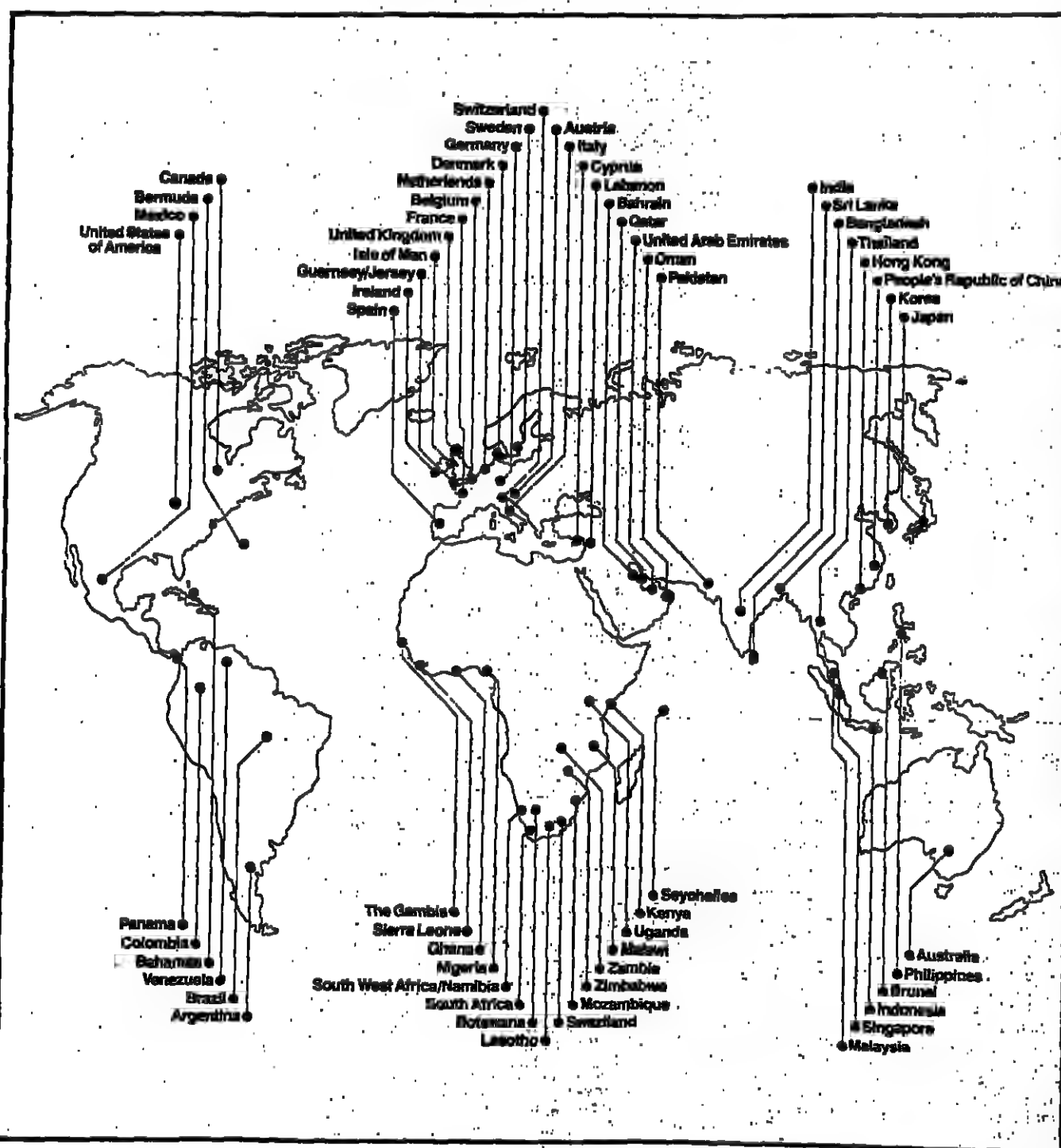
Profits before taxation up 12%
Earnings per share up 24%
Dividend up 14%

Shareholders' Funds now
£1,023 million
Total Assets now
£19,822 million

Profits before taxation for the year ended 31st December 1981 amounted to £260 million, compared with £233 million the year before. The net profit attributable to shareholders, after deducting taxation and minority interests, was £135 million or 156 pence per share. The total dividend proposed for the year is 37 pence per share.

The triennial valuation of group properties resulted in a net surplus of £234 million, which has been added to group reserves, and the total of shareholders' funds at the end of 1981 amounted to £1,023 million. The directors have recommended a bonus issue of one fully paid ordinary share for each two ordinary shares currently held, after which the issued capital of the bank will amount to £130 million.

In commercial banking the group's strong domestic banking systems in Africa produced very satisfactory results and the branch operations of The Chartered Bank in the East sustained their profitable contributions. The newer group branches in Europe



1,500 offices in 60 countries
around the world.

achieved a significant increase in earnings, as did the international and treasury divisions in London, both of which made record profits. Group merchant banks had a

good year. The instalment finance companies in Britain and South Africa were adversely affected by interest movements on their fixed rate lending as was Union Bank in

California.

During the twelve years since the Standard Chartered Bank group was created, we have developed new commercial banking operations in the metropolitan market places of Europe and North America to complement our traditional branch networks in Africa and the East. At the same time we have used the strength of our balance sheet to make acquisitions in related financial services companies, as well as to invest in the Mocatta group of companies and to undertake the purchase of Union Bank in California.

While not all these developments are yet making a satisfactory contribution, we have endeavoured to secure a foothold in most of the banking market places that are open to us in the free world and to develop the experience and skills that will ensure a worthwhile business for us in the future.

With the strength provided by the diversified structure and operations of the Standard Chartered group, we are well placed to maintain progress.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts and of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from: The Secretary, 10 Clements Lane London EC4N 7AB

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Rent boost profit
Higher re
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Mr David
director say
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Government moves to shield lira

Rentals boost profits

Signs of hope stir market

Makers miss the call

Snoopy and Wilfred Mayan, brought to you by British Telecom

Dividends rise by 10 per cent to £50,000 and over 11½%.

Pontols

Rentals boost profits

Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	*13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

★ 7 day deposits on sums of
 over £10,000 12%
 £5,000 up to £10,000 11%
 £50,000 and over 11%.*

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82			Price 'Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	Actual	P/E	Fully Taxed
High	Low	Ass Bktd Ind						
130	100	Ass Bktd Ind CULS	128	-	10.0	7.8	-	-
75	62	Airsprung Group	73	-	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	44	-	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	198	-	9.7	4.9	9.6	11.7
100	100	CCL 11% Conv Pref	106	-	15.7	14.8	-	-
104	61	Deborah Services	62	+1	6.0	9.7	3.1	5.8
131	97	Frank Horsell	126	-	6.4	5.1	11.4	23.3
83	39	Frederick Parker	74	-1	8.6	8.5	3.8	7.2
78	46	George Blair	54	-	-	-	-	-
102	93	Ind Prec Castings	96	-	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
109	100	Isis Conv Pref	108	-1	15.7	14.5	-	-
113	94	Jackson Group	96	-	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8
130	108	James Burrough	113	-1	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
334	240	Robert Jenkins	240	-	31.3	13.0	3.3	8.5
64	61	Scruttons "A"	64	-	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	-	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
80	60	Twinklark 10	133	-	-	-	-	-
80	66	Twinklark 15% ULS	80	-	15.0	18.8	-	-
44	25	Unilever Holdings	25	-	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
103	71	Walter Alexander	79	-	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2
263	212	W. S. Yeates	230	-	14.5	6.3	6.0	12.0

Prices now available on Prestel code 4R146

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds ...	13%
C. Hoare & Co	*13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

WALTER LAWRENCE

Building up

Strong performances in contracting, housing and development helped industrial holding group Walter Lawrence to a record pre-tax profit of £1.93m in the year to December, 35 per cent above the previous year. Turnover slipped from £64.23m to £63.7m. Dividends rise by 10 per

Strong performance

contracting, housing and development helped industrial holding group Walter Lawrence to a record pre-tax profit of £1.93m in the year to December, 35 per cent above the previous year. Turnover slipped from £64.23m to £63.37m. Dividends rise by 10 per

Controlled expansion in line with our strategy

A year ago we announced the new emphasis being given to controlled expansion. We have made a satisfactory start towards achieving our targets, notwithstanding the severe action we felt it necessary to take in Canada and Australia. In both the US and the UK, our two largest territories, premiums increased by over 15% enabling us to achieve real growth without sacrificing sound underwriting principles.

Changes in presentation of the accounts

The general insurance profit has been struck after adding to the underwriting balance that part of the investment income allocated to the general insurance funds. We believe that this way of reporting our business accords with the realities of the market place and gives shareholders a clearer understanding of the return derived from our insurance operations.

Dividend

As we have said in the past, one of our prime objectives is to pursue a progressive dividend policy and we are adhering to this course whilst at the same time taking into account the need to retain profits to support the growth, both real and inflationary, in our business.

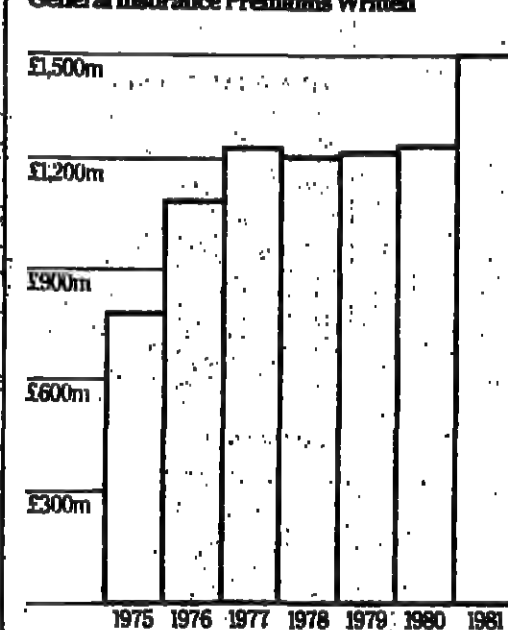
Insurance Company taxation

Under present tax law all additions to insurance companies' free reserves have to be made out of fully taxed earnings. Unlike industrial and other commercial concerns we receive no tax relief for the effect of inflation. We feel it would be equitable for UK insurance companies, as successful operators in world markets benefiting the economy through their overseas earnings, to qualify for some alleviation of tax towards mitigating the effect of inflation on the maintenance of their capital resources.

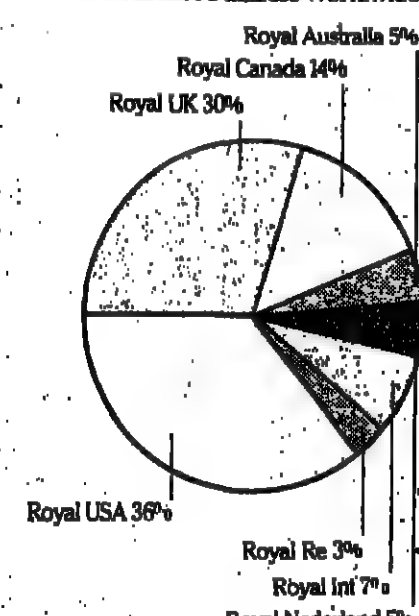
Summary of Results

	1981 £m	1980 £m
General Insurance		
Premiums Written	1,489.9	1,241.7
Underwriting Balance	-102.9	-40.3
Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations	152.3	113.3
General Insurance Profit	49.4	73.0
Long-term Insurance Profit	12.1	10.0
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves	49.0	33.0
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	7.0	6.2
Profit before Taxation	117.5	122.2
Less Taxation	44.9	50.4
Minority Interests	0.9	0.9
Net Profit attributable to the Shareholders	71.7	70.9
(pence per share)	(38.5p)	(46.2p)
Dividend for the year	47.6	41.7
(pence per share)	(25.25p)	(24.0p)
Transfer to Retained Profits	24.1	29.2

General Insurance Premiums Written



General Insurance Business Worldwide



Our role in the community

We aim to act as responsible members of the communities in which we operate, in the conviction that we should do all we can to foster a stable climate in which to develop our business activities.

As a UK company, founded in Liverpool, we are glad to be playing a leading part in the Merseyside initiatives to alleviate youth unemployment and other social problems which arise in inner city areas.

We have substantially increased the number of young people we employ through the Manpower Services Commission both on Merseyside and throughout the United Kingdom. We have also seconded a senior manager to serve with the Merseyside task force and, on a national level, another to serve with the Financial Institutions Group, set up by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Future

The difficult trading conditions experienced in 1981 are likely to continue during 1982 and the turning point in some markets may not be reached until 1983.

Meanwhile we continue to maintain a close control over our underwriting operations and in the year ahead we will not hesitate to take strong corrective action wherever necessary. Our overall strategy continues to be to maintain and, where possible, increase our market share where we see profitable opportunities, in order to maximise the return on resources for which we are accountable.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Barbican Centre for Arts and Conferences on the 12th May, 1982.

Royal Insurance

Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London

Please send me a copy of the Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1981.

Name _____
Address _____

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RECEPTIONIST
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Required, full time or part time. Good salary + commission. Amber Ltd., 24 Baker St., London, W.1. Tel 486 7783/7.

PR-68,000. Smart outgoing Secretary needed to work for a Account Director in this large, busy, multi-branch company. The role involves a lot of travel and a high degree of responsibility. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Please ring 01-734 0832.

STUDENT (awaiting University of Manchester) required as Receptionist in central London office. Please ring 01-493 8042.

SMALL firm of surveyors in central London requires a secretary with good typing skills and a high degree of responsibility. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Please ring 01-734 0832.

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DO YOU HAVE some spare hours each week to help people buy their cars? Please ring 01-734 0832.

RENTALS
AMERICAN Executive seeks luxury flat or house up to £250 p.w. with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars. Please ring 01-734 0832.

WANDSWORTH—The Towler's. Exceptional newly decorated 3 bed house with 2 bathrooms, 2 cars. Please ring 01-734 0832.

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Chestertons
CADOGAN STREET, SW3
House with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars. Please ring 01-734 0832.

TENANTS
Sought for large addition of quality furnished and unfurnished houses and flats in S.W. and S.E. London from 17-229 p.m.
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FOR LUXURY flats and houses call Enhanced Plus, 734 2600.

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 by 9.30 Financial News 9.40 Look Ahead
 Discovery 10.15 Classical Record
 News 10.30 It Makes Me Laugh 11.00
 News 11.09 News about Britain 11.15
 from London 11.25 Scotland this Week
 12.00 Sports International 12.00 Radio
 12.15pm Famous Paintings of the
 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World
 News

Show 2.30 Thirty Minute Theatre 3.00
 Newsweek 3.15 Outlook 4.00 World
 4.08 Commentary 4.15 Plato's
 Public 5.00 World News 5.09 Twenty-Four
 News Summary 5.30 With Great
 Care 6.15 Two's Company 9.30 Plato's
 Public 10.00 World News 10.09 The World
 Today 10.25 Scotland The Week 10.30
 Social News 10.40 Reflections 10.45
 Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09

Britain 12.15 Radio Newswear 12.30 A
Good Show 1.15 Outlook: News
man 1.45 Report on Religion 2.00 World
2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15
English Idyll 2.30 Jane Eyre 3.00 World
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Times except: 9.30 European
Tales. 9.40 Joe 90. 10.05 Girl of
nesia. 10.30 Anna and the King.
5 The Bubbles. 11.00-12.00
ame Street. 1.20 Granada Reports.
Exchange Flags. 1.55-2.25
m Court. 3.50-4.20 Looks
ffair. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00

SCOTTISH

re You Look for It. 11.50-12.00
Too Watcoo. 12.30pm-1.30
Denning Time. 1.20-1.30 News.
4.20 Looks Familiar. 5.10
eller's Tales. 5.20-5.45
Roads. 6.00 Scotland Today.
7.00 What's Your Problem?
10 Late Call. 11.35 Nero Wolfe.
1am Closedown.

TYNE TEES
 James except: Starts 9.20 The
 d Word. 9.25 North East News.
 Bailey's Bird. 9.55 Flare — A Sid
 10.15 Film: The Blue Lagoon
 (Simmons and Donald Houston).
 children are shipwrecked on an
 ted island. 11.50-12.00 Sally and

around. 3.50-4.20 The Riordans.
5.45 Survival. 6.00 North East
5. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00
hem Life. 10.30-10.32 North East
5. 11.30 The Two of Us. 12.00 For
Deaf. 12.05 Closedown.

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East European pol: arrest per: protesters

By Our Foreign Staff

West in several East European demonstrations for moment and the urgent weapons funds spent the world's hunger / were released last night.

Protesters had also led the release of Dr de Sakharov, the Soviet A Peace Prize winner, in internal exile, and Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish Solidarity leader.

The demonstrators were in East Berlin, Prague, Budapest and Sofia as well as Moscow. Food and Disarmament International, the Brussels-based coordinating body, said that the demonstrators in Bucharest were given a completely different reception to those elsewhere.

They were allowed to distribute leaflets to a crowd of people and to speak to them, and were applauded. Rumanian police checked the Westerners' identities, but no attempt was made to detain them.

The demonstrators were members of small West European radical parties and of a Spanish conscientious objectors' movement. Three of those arrested in Prague during the protest were said to be Poles, but the organizers said last night that they had no confirmation of this.

The seven detained in Moscow during the simultaneously planned East European demonstrations were released last night after questioning. A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry described the incident as trivial, and said that the group — French, Belgian, Italian and Spanish subjects — would leave the Soviet

Union today when their tourist visas had expired.

Food and Disarmament International said that those held in East Berlin had also been released and allowed to cross into West Berlin. But Brussels was still trying to find out what had happened to the people arrested in Prague and Budapest.

More than 20 Westerners took part in the demonstrations in the six cities. No one went to Warsaw because it was impossible to get visas in time, a spokesman said.

The reception in Bucharest may have been a small sign of the way the Romanians are apt to take a different line to the rest of the Warsaw Pact in strategic matters, although domestic dissent is not tolerated.

Different slogans were used in the various cities to underline the common theme. In Moscow, the group unfurled an 18ft blue lettered banner with the words "Bread, Life and Disarmament" in Red Square as tourists gathered near the Lenin Mausoleum.

Security police beat down the demonstrators and banded the protesters into a waiting car. The action apparently provoked little interest among the hundreds of bystanders.

A statement issued to Western correspondents said that the demonstrators had called on the Soviet Government to give 0.7 per cent of its gross national product to feeding developing countries.

The protests stemmed from a manifesto signed by 73 Nobel Prize winners, and they called for a radical change of conscience in the world to save tens of millions of people facing starvation.

Man shot dead in raid

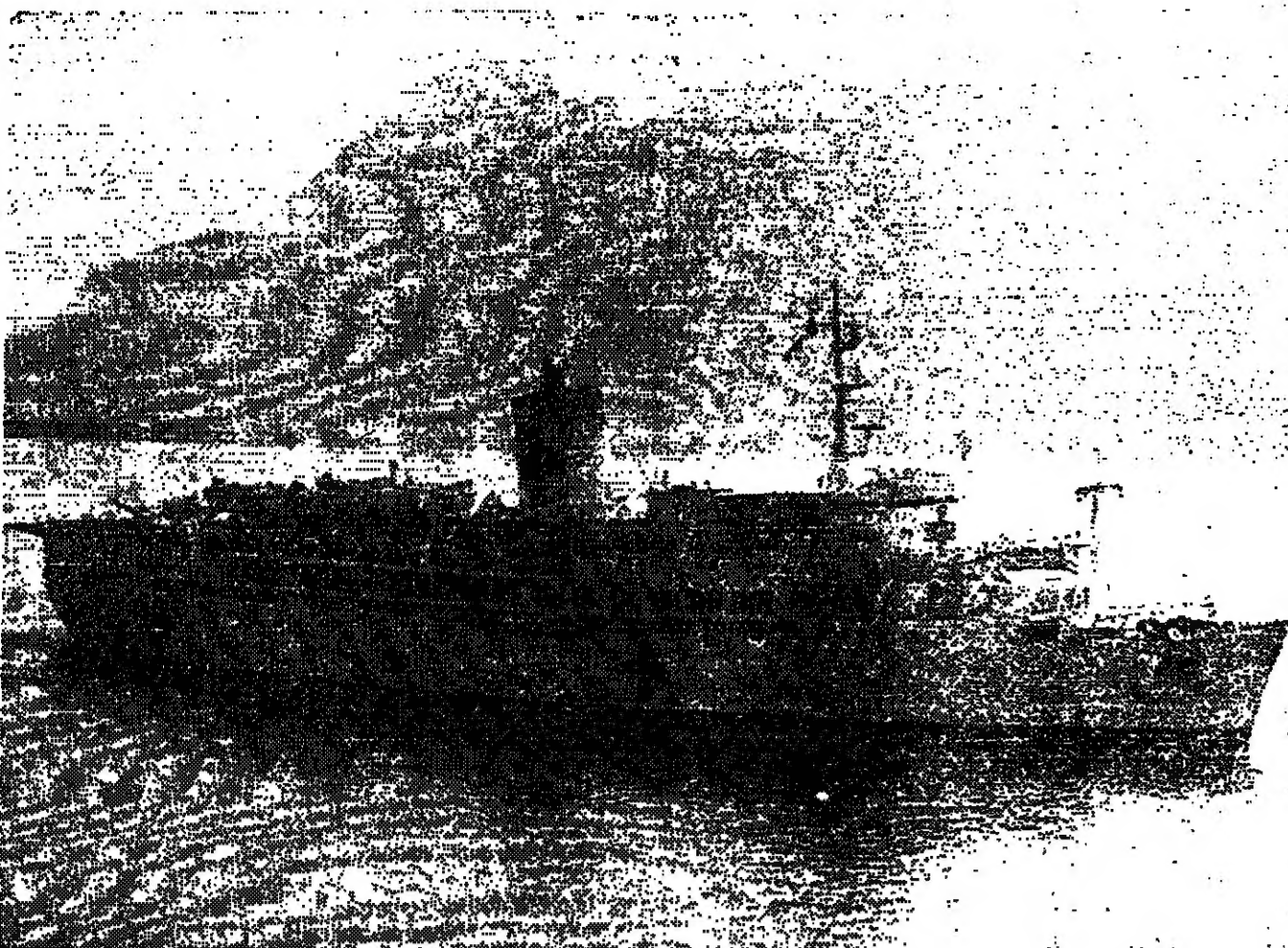
A man was shot dead yesterday and his wife injured in a raid on a Bittern Park, Southampton. Minutes after the shooting, the dead man's 18-year-old daughter ran from the house covered in blood and screaming: "They have shot my father."

Hampshire police named the dead man last night as Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Iwan. His wife, Mrs Malik Iwan, was in Southampton General Hospital with head injuries.

Mrs Gloria Brown, who lives near by in Thorold Road, said the family had been packing to emigrate to Canada. They were thought to own a restaurant. There were reports that they had advertised gold for sale.

Soon after the shooting hundreds of families were evacuated when armed police surrounded a block of flats in Exford Drive, Southampton.

The siege ended after three hours when a man came out of one of the flats. Last night a man and woman were assisting the police inquiries.



The cruise liner Uganda, bearing Red Cross markings, sails out of Gibraltar

Older Yamit protesters discount suicide threat

Continued from page 1

morning, Israel's two chief rabbis arrived at the Yamit bunker, symbolically dubbing "Masada" in memory of an earlier Jewish siege — in an effort to persuade the protesters to drop their death threat. The youngsters refused to recant after shouted conversations through a ventilation shaft. They claim to have already drawn up lots about the order in which they would die at two-hourly intervals if the Yamit withdrawal went ahead.

Although the threat was being taken seriously by the authorities, many of the older protesters appeared sceptical that it would be carried out, dismissing the Kach members as overly theatrical.

Urgent efforts were under way today to install a hot line to the bunker to allow the extremists to live off stockpiled food and to talk directly to Rabbi Meir Kahane, their leader. He recently left for New York after claiming to have been informed by his mother that the Begin Government intended to reimpose an administrative detention order on him.

Meanwhile as the flurry of diplomatic activity surround-

ing Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai continued, optimism was increasing on all sides that the pull-back will take place as planned despite recent strains in Israeli-Egyptian relations.

The optimism, encouraged by recent remarks made by Mr Walter Stoessel, the Deputy American Secretary of State, was given a further boost yesterday after talks between Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Kamel Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Both Mr Ali and an official spokesman for Mr Begin endeavoured to play down the problems still outstanding after the first of two meetings during the day.

Photograph, page 8

Iranian diplomat quits in protest

Rome. — Mr Mohammad Hossein Naghi, the Charge d'Affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Rome, has resigned in protest over the massacres in Iran. In a statement, he attacked "the absence of individual and collective freedom in Iran."

US embarrassed by security lapse

Continued from page 1

complete organizational breakdown with diagrams and potted and far from flattering biographies of their leaders.

American diplomats in the Middle East have confirmed privately that the documents are genuine. They are regarded as so sensitive that when an American television crew attempted to take the Iranian books into the United States, they were confiscated by security authorities.

It is clear, however, that some documents were so sensitive that the Iranians felt constrained not to publish them. Among the papers recording Ayatollah Khomeini's accession to power, for example, there is apparently evidence that Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, the imam's Islamic Republican Party heir-apparent until his murder last summer, maintained secret personal bank accounts in West Germany.

Beheshti is said to have met senior American generals just before the Shah's overthrow in 1979, and papers recording these discussions have also been suppressed. So has evidence that in the autumn of 1979 the East German Embassy in

Kabul furnished the United States Government with proof that the Soviet Army was planning to intervene in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, those whom Ayatollah Khomeini's followers wish to destroy have been compromised by the embassy files. Not least of these is the elderly Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, who at one time appeared to be a theological rival to Ayatollah Khomeini. A United States embassy memorandum of September, 1978, states that "the head of the Pepsi distributing company... revealed that four years ago Shariat-Madari was paid to promote Pepsi operations in Iran."

A long series of papers record meetings between "United States" Government officials and Amir Abbas Entezam, who was Deputy Prime Minister in Mr Mehdi Bazargan's first revolutionary government. On the basis of these documents, Mr Entezam is serving life imprisonment behind the forbidding walls of Evin jail.

And last week, it is now reported, Shariat-Madari was arrested in Qom while Revolutionary Guards ransacked his home.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A crisis world view extends to Wales

Crisis there is, but outwardly the Commons bears the aspect of a place where nothing is different from what it was before. Life must go on; or, if not life, then at least Welsh question time.

Wales is a tiny, forgotten speck of the globe about the size of the Falkland Islands. (The Falkland Islanders must by now be tired of hearing it put the other way around, so I thought I would redress the balance.) But yesterday the Commons found time, as it does every few weeks, for various MPs named Jones to groan and wail their way through three-quarters of an hour.

It was a timeless, reassuring scene. We were a nation which had just despatched to the other side of the earth a large fleet, equipped with the most modern means of destruction, some of which had never before been used in anger by any other nation; a fleet about to meet a fate, glorious or otherwise, which could be foretold — at least of all the Government that sent it. And yet our legislature could still find time for Mr Alec Jones, Labour MP for Rhondda, to get up and demand from a Minister a "long-term review" into the need for a second Severn bridge.

Bridges, when demanded by politicians, are almost always largely useless: beautiful, certainly, but invariably surplus to requirements. Remember the Humber Bridge, now spanning Humber as a result of a by-election long ago? The point, however, is that a Welsh politician named Jones, demanding an extra bridge, is evidence that Britain's free political institutions are carrying on as usual.

'Encourage the arts in the regions'

Other traditions were being observed. During questions to the Minister of the Arts, one backbencher said it was "important to encourage the arts in the regions". He won murmurs of approval from both sides of the House. The Minister, Mr Paul Channon, a genial soul anxious to please as widely as possible, agreed. Whereupon, a Tory from London got up and, though he phrased it more prudently, argued quite correctly that of course most

of the Arts Council loot should go to London because, when compared with the British regions, London was... well, more arty. He drew murmurs of disapproval from both sides of the House, there being more regional than London MPs. Even Mr Channon could not quite agree with him.

None of this is to suggest that, whatever they may be thinking about, MPs are anything other than the Falklands. The House has been numbed by the subject for over two weeks now. When it reassembled yesterday after the brief Easter recess, this remained the situation despite — or because of — the fact that there is now this full which seems endless, but which cannot last longer than a very short time, something is going to happen. But what? It was so obvious yesterday that no one knew.

Ready to wage total negotiation

Mr Pym, the Foreign Secretary, arrived and made a routine statement on the crisis. Nothing of substance had changed.

The politicians on all sides had by yesterday begun to fit the crisis into their general world view or at least the view they think is expected of them. Thus, Mr Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, went on and on at Mr Pym about the need to involve the United Nations, seeing a future for the islands consisting of endless peace-keeping forces, diplomatic initiatives and independent administrators. He stood prepared to wage total negotiation.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour, Lewisham, West, fitting it all into his world view, complained to Mr Pym of Lloyd's underwriters and City types, well represented on the benches behind the Foreign Secretary, who were still doing business with Argentina. Mr Price thus becoming the first to raise the people's traditional cry of war profiteering. Mr Pym was less aggressive in tone than when first appointed in the wake of Lord Carrington. But there was no sign of telling whether that was significant, so unknown did the future remain when he sat down.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Margaret opens Glasgow Holiday Inn, Glasgow, 11. The Duchess of Kent, President, attends BBC Television Young Musicians of the Year Finals, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, 6.50.

New exhibitions
Spring Exhibition, including work by Rodin, Bernini, Diana Armitage and John Flaxman, at the West of England Galleries, Queens Road, Bristol; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30; (from today until May 15).

Exhibitions in progress

Animals and Landscapes: paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by various artists, at the Gallery, Tebury, Gloucestershire; 10 to 6 daily; (until May 8).
Seven Artists: Manchester Joint Workshops, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; Thurs 10 to 9; (until May 13).
Drawings, paintings and sculpture by Dorothy Bradford and Sam Tonkoss, Forsyth, 125 Deansgate, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; (until April 28).

Art 9 to 5.30; (until April 30).

The Roaring Game: the evolution of the game of curling in its social context, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 8).
Paintings by Walter Dorie: Middlebrough Art Gallery, 320 Middlebrough Road, Middlebrough; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (until May 11).
Work by Frank Matcham, theatre architect and designer, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 12.30 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30; (until May 16).
Sculpture by Henry Moore, Roselle House Museum, Roselle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 12.30, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 28).

The Times/Halifax house price index

Month	Index	Average price (£)	% change 1 year	% change 5 years
1977 December	100.0	14,787		
1978 December	121.1	17,888	21.2	2.4
1979 December	151.0	22,541	27.8	8.9
1980 December	166.2	24,523	10.0	1.3
1981 January	167.7	24,752	0.8	0.5
February	168.1	24,752	0.2	0.5
March	172.9	25,511	3.2	4.0
April	170.1	25,121	-1.6	2.7
May	171.5	25,304	0.6	3.0
June	169.5	25,003	-1.7	2.0
July	170.1	25,121	0.4	2.7
August	168.5	24,424	-0.9	-1.5
September	163.1	24,084	-3.2	-3.8
October	162.4	23,542	-2.1	-4.1
November	169.0	23,583	2.8	-3.9
December	170.1	24,127	2.3	-2.4
1982 January	163.1	24,072	-3.7	0.4
February	162.6	23,896	-0.6	-1.2
March	166.2	24,382	4.1	-0.5

All last house prices are on the move again after having been in the doldrums for the last few months. According to the latest Times/Halifax building society index, prices increased by an average 1.6 per cent during March, marking the end of a period of stagnation. The average price of a house in the country last month was £24,382, up from £24,127 in February and £23,896 in January. The index also shows a sharp increase in the housing market activity, with the number of houses sold in March up 40 per cent on the same month in February. The average price of a house in the country last month was £24,382, up from £24,127 in February and £23,896 in January.

The papers

The British aim now must be the freedom of the Falklands, not just repossession of the islands, says the Daily Mirror, even though it means negotiating with a "repulsive regime."

In proposing a 12-month rent freeze for both municipal and private tenants if they win the next election, Labour is running out of the tired old housing recipe that has failed the country in the past," says the Sheffield Morning Telegraph.

The Falklands crisis is serious, the Washington Post said yesterday, but pointed out how much more serious it would be a few years hence when Argentina has its own atomic weapons.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	1.75	1.67
Austria Sch	33.40	29.40
Belgium Fr	92.25	87.25
Canada \$	2.22	2.13
Denmark Kr	15.00	14.25
France Fr	191.00	182.00
Germany Dm	11.50	10.90
Greece Dr	4.44	4.19
Hongkong \$	116.00	109.00
Italy Lira	338.00	228.00
Japan Yen	160.00	150.00
Netherlands Gld	4.90	4.64
Norway Kr	11.20	10.60
Portugal Esc	131.50	124.50
South Africa Rd	2.20	2.04
Spain Ptas	160.00	150.00
Sweden Kr	10.50	10.36
Switzerland Fr	3.62	3.40
USA \$	1.81	1.74
Yugoslavia Dnr	97.00	91.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as quoted yesterday by Barclays Bank International. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency transactions.

London: The FT Index closed up 7.4 at 558.1.

Roads

Midlands: A45: Roadworks between Thurlston and Coventry boundary, M5: Lane closures between 7 and 8 (Ross).
North: A574: Temporary lights on Watlington Road, Cusack, Cheshire. A614/A649: Only one lane open on Bradford Road and Sheffield Road, W. Yorkshire. A101: A shoulder closed between Aycliffe and Burnside interchange, Co Durham and Red House to M18, S. Yorkshire.

Wales and West: A55: Haverdon by-pass construction, Chester and Ewloe. A55: Construction of by-pass, Colwyn Bay. Scotland: A1: Single line traffic with temporary lights of Haddington, East Lothian. A74: Lane closures at Johnstone bridge, Dumfriesshire. A96: Road realignment SE of Hunderly, Aberdeenshire. Information supplied by the AA.

Rail

Because of unofficial industrial action by some guards at Chingford, rail services between Chingford and Liverpool Street are expected to be severely restricted this morning; also some cancellations this afternoon on Enfield, Hertford East and Bishops Cleeve lines.

For up-to-date pre-recorded information, call 01-247 5482.

Sporting fixtures

Football: First Division: Everton v Nottingham Forest (7.45); Ipswich v Manchester United (7.30).
Second Division: Brighton v Reading (7.30); Luton v Walsley (7.30).
Third Division: Exeter (2) and Exeter (2) and Exeter (2).
Tennis: British hard court championships at Bournemouth.

Weather forecast

Anticyclone over the southern North sea

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, Channel Islands, SW, NW, Cent South: Cent N, England, Wales: Dry sunny periods after early mist or fog clears. Wind variable light. Max temp 13-15C (55-59F). Cooler on coasts. Max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

London, Cent S, Cent N, England, Wales: Dry sunny periods after early mist or fog clears. Wind variable light. Max temp 14-18C (57-65F).

SE, E, NE, England, East Angles: Dry sunny periods after early mist or fog clears. Wind variable, light. Max temp 13-15C (55-59F). Cooler on coasts. Max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Bright or sunny intervals, a few showers. Wind SW, light to moderate. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, Scotland, Argyll: Cloudy outbreaks of rain becoming brighter and drier later. Wind SW moderate to fresh. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, becoming brighter and drier later. Wind SW, fresh to strong. Max temp 8C (48F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mainly dry, sunny periods. Rather warmer. Night frost in places.

SEA PASSES

S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel: Wind N, light or moderate; sea slight. St George's Channel: Wind variable, light; sea smooth. Irish Sea: Wind SW, light or moderate; sea slight.

Lighting-up time

London: 8.20 pm to 5.23 am
Birmingham: 8.40 pm to 5.24 am
Edinburgh: 8.50 pm to 5.24 am
Penzance: 8.53 pm to 5.46 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: 1, fair, a sun.
Dulfer: 12.0 C, 54 F
Birmingham: 11.5 C, 53 F
Bristol: 11.5 C, 53 F
Cardiff: 11.5 C, 53 F
Cork: 11.5 C, 53 F
Edinburgh: 11.5 C, 53 F
Glasgow: 11.5 C, 53 F
Liverpool: 11.5 C, 53 F
Manchester: 11.5 C, 53 F
Newcastle: 11.5 C, 53 F
Nottingham: 11.5 C, 53 F
Oxford: 11.5 C, 53 F
Penzance: 11.5 C, 53 F
Reading: 11.5 C, 53 F
Sheffield: 11.5 C, 53 F
Southampton: 11.5 C, 53 F
Stirling: 11.5 C, 53 F
Tottenham: 11.5 C, 53 F
Wolverhampton: 11.5 C, 53 F
Wrexham: 11.5 C, 53 F

Highest and lowest

Highest: 17C (63F) Valley, Alderbury, Wiltshire, 17C (63F). Lowest: 11C (52F) Newcastle, 11C (52F).
Alderbury, 17C (63F). Highest rain: 11.2mm (0.44in).
Highest sunshine: 13.7hr.

London

Temp: Max 17 in 7 pm, 16C (61F) at 7 pm, 15C (59F) at 7 pm, 14C (57F) at 7 pm, 13C (55F) at 7 pm, 12C (54F) at 7 pm, 11C (52F) at 7 pm, 10C (50F) at 7 pm, 9C (48F) at 7 pm, 8C (46F) at 7 pm, 7C (45F) at 7 pm, 6C (43F) at 7 pm, 5C (41F) at 7 pm, 4C (39F) at 7 pm, 3C (37F) at 7 pm, 2C (36F) at 7 pm, 1C (34F) at 7 pm, 0C (32F) at 7 pm, -1C (30F) at 7 pm, -2C (28F) at 7 pm, -3C (27F) at 7 pm, -4C (25F) at 7 pm, -5C (23F) at 7 pm, -6C (21F) at 7 pm, -7C (19F) at 7 pm, -8C (17F) at 7 pm, -9C (15F) at 7 pm, -10C (13F) at 7 pm, -11C (11F) at 7 pm, -12C (9F) at 7 pm, -13C (7F) at 7 pm, -14C (5F) at 7 pm, -15C (3F) at 7 pm, -16C (1F) at 7 pm, -17C (-1F) at 7 pm, -18C (-3F) at 7 pm, -19C (-5F) at 7 pm, -20C (-7F) at 7 pm, -21C (-9F) at 7 pm, -22C (-11F) at 7 pm, -23C (-13F) at 7 pm, -24C (-15F) at 7 pm, -25C (-17F) at 7 pm, -26C (-19F) at 7 pm, -27C (-21F) at 7 pm, -28C (-23F) at 7 pm, -29C (-25F) at 7 pm, -30C (-27F) at 7 pm.

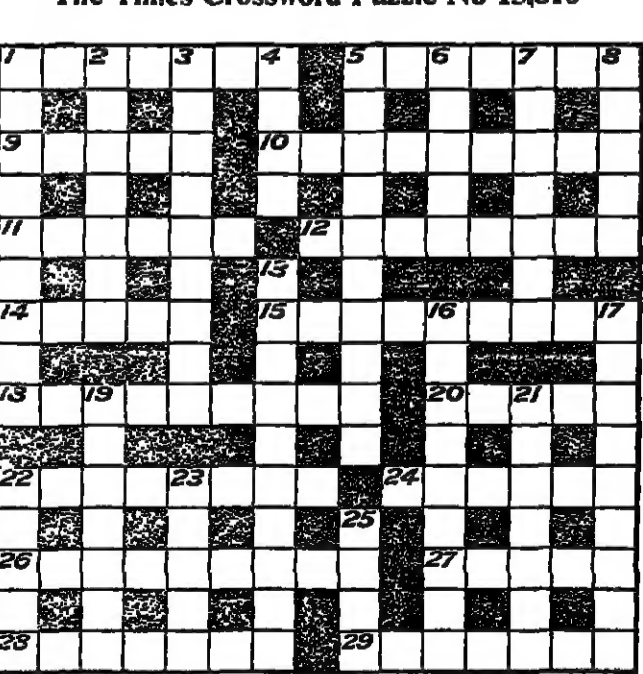
Around Britain

Scarborough: 11.5 C, 53 F
Birmingham: 11.5 C, 53 F
Bristol: 11.5 C, 53 F
Cardiff: 11.5 C, 53 F
Cork: 11.5 C, 53 F
Edinburgh: 11.5 C, 53 F
Glasgow: 11.5 C, 53 F
Liverpool: 11.5 C, 53 F
Manchester: 11.5 C, 53 F
Newcastle: 11.5 C, 53 F
Nottingham: 11.5 C, 53 F
Oxford: 11.5 C, 53 F
Penzance: 11.5 C, 53 F
Reading: 11.5 C, 53 F
Sheffield: 11.5 C, 53 F
Southampton: 11.5 C, 53 F
Stirling: 11.5 C, 53 F
Tottenham: 11.5 C, 53 F
Wolverhampton: 11.5 C, 53 F
Wrexham: 11.5 C, 53 F

Abroad

Algeria: 19.0 C, 66 F
Argentina: 28.0 C, 82 F
Australia: 25.0 C, 77 F
Austria: 15.0 C, 59 F
Belgium: 15.0 C, 59 F
Brazil: 28.0 C, 82 F
Canada: 15.0 C, 59 F
Chile: 15.0 C, 59 F
China: 15.0 C, 59 F
Czechoslovakia: 15.0 C, 59 F
Denmark: 15.0 C, 59 F
France: 15.0 C, 59 F
Germany: 15.0 C, 59 F
Greece: 15.0 C, 59 F
Hong Kong: 15.0 C, 59 F
India: 15.0 C, 59 F
Indonesia: 15.0 C, 59 F
Italy: 15.0 C, 59 F
Japan: 15.0 C, 59 F
Korea: 15.0 C, 59 F
Kuwait: 15.0 C, 59 F
Laos: 15.0 C, 59 F
Lebanon: 15.0 C, 59 F
Lithuania: 15.0 C, 59 F
Luxembourg: 15.0 C, 59 F
Malaysia: 15.0 C, 59 F
Malta: 15.0 C, 59 F
Mexico: 15.0 C, 59 F
Morocco: 15.0 C, 59 F
Netherlands: 15.0 C, 59 F
New Zealand: 15.0 C, 59 F
Norway: 15.0 C, 59 F
Oman: 15.0 C, 59 F
Pakistan: 15.0 C, 59 F
Panama: 15.0 C, 59 F
Paraguay: 15.0 C, 59 F
Peru: 15.0 C, 59 F
Poland: 15.0 C, 59 F
Portugal: 15.0 C, 59 F
Romania: 15.0 C, 59 F
Russia: 15.0 C, 59 F
Saudi Arabia: 15.0 C, 59 F
Singapore: 15.0 C, 59 F
South Africa: 15.0 C, 59 F
Spain: 15.0 C, 59 F
Sweden: 15.0 C, 59 F
Switzerland: 15.0 C, 59 F
Taiwan: 15.0 C, 59 F
Thailand: 15.0 C, 59 F
Turkey: 15.0 C, 59 F
Uganda: 15.0 C, 59 F
Ukraine: 15.0 C, 59 F
United States: 15.0 C, 59 F
Uruguay: 15.0 C, 59 F
Venezuela: 15.0 C, 59 F
Vietnam: 15.0 C, 59 F
Yemen: 15.0 C, 59 F
Yugoslavia: 15.0 C, 59 F

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,810



ACROSS

- 1 Work back to back making door (7).
- 2 How to remove top salary given by world organization? (7).
- 3 Understand how to handle things (5).
- 4 Book about a traveller? (4-5).
- 5 Hovering may be barred here? (6).
- 6 Think well of old province of France (8).
- 7 Not fit to doze in it (5).
- 8 Have a go at clue, for a change it's a guide (3-4).
- 9 Stall for daily sales (4-5).
- 10 Judge — showed one may not be far out (5).
- 11 Small creature once associated with gooseberries? (4-4).
- 12 Disturb with a drum-beat (6).
- 13 Lad with broom, nothing more, moving carpet (9).
- 14 Like railways showing signs of age? (5).
- 15 Post aiding permissive society? (7).
- 16 Stourly Oliver accepts one pound (7).

DOWN

- 1 Moving play re-cast dropping five (9).
- 2 National need to stay on course (7).
- 3 Meandering true shape of river (9).
- 4 State has no leading star (4).
- 5 One hoping to take part seems to skip work? (10).
- 6 So many take me to battle (5).
- 7 Has this horse got the staggers? (7).
- 8 Frail, Hamlet agrees (5).
- 9 Stop reading piece-meal records (5-5).
- 10 In short Procrustes the teaser (3-6).
- 11 Phoebe dated this Sunday (6-3).
- 12 Failure — of clue for 1 dn's playwright? (4-3).
- 13 Happily define "F" in official address (7).
- 14 New arrival left noisy assembly (5).
- 15 More to curtail financial programme (5).
- 16 A poor cart raised by a Chinese nurse (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,809